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Vol. V.

Containing the first Part of Roderic Random;



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G O T T A

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THE
ADVENTURES
OF
RODERIC RANDOM

By T. SMOLLETT, M. D.

With the Life of the Author.

Et genus et Virtus, nisi cum re, vilior alga est.
Hor.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

Vol. I.

G O T H A

PRINTED FOR STEUDEL AND KEIL,

1805.

THE
ADVENTURES
OF
RODERIC RANDOM

By T. SMOLLETT, M.D.

With the Life of the Author.

By the Author, with some additional Notes.

1765.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

Vol. I.

LONDON:

Printed for J. DODD, in Pall-mall.

MDCCLXV.

P R E F A C E.

Of all kinds of satire there is none so entertaining and universally improving, as that which is introduced, as it were, occasionally, in the course of an interesting story, which brings every incident home to life; and, by representing familiar scenes in an uncommon and amusing point of view, invests them with all the graces of novelty, while nature is appealed to in every particular.

The reader gratifies his curiosity in pursuing the adventures of a person in whose favour he is prepossessed; he espouses his cause, he sympathizes with him in distress, his indignation is heated against the authors of his calamity; the humane passions are inflamed; the contrast between dejected virtue and insulting vice appears with greater aggravation, and every impression, having a double force on the imagination, the memory retains the circumstance, and the heart

improves by the example. The attention is not tired with a bare catalogue of characters, but agreeably diverted with all the variety of invention; and the vicissitudes of life appear in their peculiar circumstances, opening an ample field for wit and humour.

Romance, no doubt, owes its origin to ignorance, vanity, and superstition. In the dark ages of the world, when a man had rendered himself famous for wisdom or valour, his family and adherents availed themselves of his superior qualities, magnified his virtues, and represented his character and person as sacred and supernatural. The vulgar easily swallowed the bait, implored his protection, and yielded the tribute of homage and praise, even to adoration; his exploits were handed down to posterity with a thousand exaggerations; they were repeated as incitements to virtue; divine honours were paid, and altars erected to

his memory, for the encouragement of those who attempted to imitate his example; and hence arose the heathen mythology, which is no other than a collection of extravagant romances. — As learning advanced, and genius received cultivation, these stories were embellished with the graces of poetry; that they might the better recommend themselves to the attention, they were sung in public, at festivals, for the instruction and delight of the audience; and rehearsed before battle, as incentives to deeds of glory. Thus tragedy and the epic muse were born, and, in the progress of taste, arrived at perfection. — It is no wonder that the ancients could not relish a fable in prose, after they had seen so many remarkable events celebrated in verse, by their best poets: we therefore find no romance among them, during the aera of their excellence, unless the *Cyropoedia* of Xenophon may be so

called; and it was not till arts and sciences began to revive, after the irruptions of the Barbarians into Europe, that any thing of this kind appeared. But when the minds of men were debauched by the imposition of priest-craft to the most absurd pitch of credulity, the authors of romance arose, and, losing sight of propability, filled their performances with the most monstrous hyperboles. If they could not equal the ancient Poets, in point of genius, they were resolved to excel them in fiction, and apply to the wonder, rather than the judgment of the readers. Accordingly they brought necromancy to their aid, and instead of supporting the character of their heroes by dignity of sentiment and practice, distinguished them by their bodily strength, activity, and extravagance of behaviour. Although nothing could be more ludicrous and unnatural than the figures they drew, they did not want

patrons and admirers; and the world actually began to be infected with the spirit of knight errantry, when Cervantes, by an inimitable piece of ridicule, reformed the taste of mankind, representing chivalry in the right point of view, and converting romance to purposes far more useful and entertaining, by making it assume the sock, and point out the follies of ordinary life.

The same method has been practised by other Spanish and French authors, and by none more successfully than by Monsieur Le Sage, who, in his adventures of Gil Blas, has described the knavery and foibles of life with infinite humour and sagacity. — The following sheets I have modelled on his plan, taking the liberty, however, to differ from him in the execution, where I thought his particular situations were uncommon and extravagant, or peculiar to the country in which the scene is laid. — The

disgraces of Gil Blas are, for the most part, such as rather excite mirth than compassion; he himself laughs at them; and his transitions from distress to happiness, or at least ease, are so sudden, that neither the reader has time to pity him, nor himself to be acquainted with affliction. This conduct, in my opinion, not only deviates from probability, but prevents that generous indignation which ought to animate the reader against the sordid and vicious disposition of the world.

I have attempted to represent modest merit struggling with every difficulty to which a friendless orphan is exposed, from his own want of experience, as well as from the selfishness, envy, malice, and base indifference of mankind. To secure a favourable prepossession, I have allowed him the advantage of birth and education, which, in the series of his misfortunes will, I hope, engage the

ingenuous more warmly in his behalf; and, though I foresee that some people will be offended at the mean scenes in which he is involved, I persuade myself the judicious will not only perceive the necessity of describing those situations to which he must of course be confined in his low estate, but also find entertainment in viewing those parts of life, where the humours and passions are undisguised by affectation, ceremony, or education; and the whimsical peculiarities of disposition appear as nature has implanted them. — But I believe I need not trouble myself in vindicating a practice authorized by the best writers in this way, some of whom I have already named.

Every intelligent reader will, at first sight, perceive, I have not deviated from Nature, in the facts, which are all true in the main, although the circumstances are altered and disguised, to avoid personal satire.

It now remains to give my reasons for making the chief personage of this work a North Briton; which are chiefly these; I could, at a small expence, bestow on him such education as I thought the dignity of his birth and character required, which could not possibly be obtained in England, by such slender means as the nature of my plan would afford. In the next place I could represent simplicity of manners in a remote part of the kingdom, with more propriety than in any place near the capital; and, lastly, the disposition of the Scots, addicted to travelling, justifies my conduct in deriving an adventurer from that country.

That the delicate reader may not be offended at the unmeaning oaths which proceed from the mouths of some persons in these Memoirs, I beg leave to premise, that I imagined nothing could more effectually expose the absurdity of such

miserable expletives, than a natural and verbal representation of the discourse in which they occur.

A P O L O G U E.

A young painter, indulging a vein of pleasantry, sketched a kind of conversation-piece, representing a bear, an owl, a monkey, and an ass; and to render it more striking, humourous, and moral, distinguished every figure by some emblem of human life.

Bruin was exhibited in the garb and attitude of an old toothless, drunken soldier; the owl, perched upon the handle of a coffee-pot, with spectacles on nose, seemed to contemplate a newspaper; and the ass, ornamented with a huge tie wig, (which, however, could not conceal his long ears) sat for his picture to the monkey, who appeared with the implements of painting. This whim-

sical group afforded some mirth, and met with general approbation, until some mischievous wag hinted that the whole was a lampoon upon the friends of the performer: an insinuation, which was no sooner circulated than those very people who applauded it before began to be alarmed, and even to fancy themselves signified by the several figures of the piece.

Among others, a worthy personage in years, who had served in the army with reputation, being incensed at the supposed outrage, repaired to the lodgings of the painter, and finding him at home, — „Hark ye, Mr. Monkey, (said he) I have a good mind to convince you, that though the bear has lost his teeth, he retains his paws, and that he is not so drunk but he can perceive your impertinence — 'Sblood, Sir! that toothless jaw is a damned scandalous libel — but, don't you imagine me so chopfallen as

not to be able to chew the cud of resentment." — Here he was interrupted by the arrival of a learned Physician, who, advancing to the culprit, with fury in his aspect, exclaimed, „Suppose the augmentation of the ass's ears, should prove the diminution of the baboon's! — Nay, seek not to prevaricate; for, by the beard of Aesculapius, there is not one hair in this perriwig that will not stand up in judgment to convict thee of personal abuse! — Do but observe, Captain, how this pitiful little fellow has copied the very curls — the colour, indeed, is different, but then the form and foretop are quite similar." — While he thus remonstrated, in a strain of vociferation, a venerable senator entered, and waddling up to the delinquent, „Jack-anapes! (cried he) I will now let thee see I can read something else than a newspaper, and that without the help of spectacles — here is your own note of hand, Sirrah, for money, which, if I had not advanced, you yourself would have resembled an owl, in not daring

to shew your face by day, you ungrateful, slanderous knave!"

In vain the astonished painter declared that he had no intention to give offence, or to characterise particular persons; they affirmed the resemblance was too palpable to be overlooked; they taxed him with insolence, malice, and ingratitude; and their clamours being overheard by the public, the captain was a bear, the doctor an ass, and the senator an owl to his dying-day.

Christian Reader, I beseech thee, in the bowels of the Lord, remember this example while thou art employed in the perusal of the following sheets; and seek not to appropriate to thyself that which equally belongs to five hundred different people. If thou shouldst meet with a character that reflects thee in some ungracious particular, keep thy own counsel; consider that one feature makes not a face, and that though thou art perhaps distinguished by a bottle-nose, twenty of thy neighbours may be in the same predicament.

THE ADVENTURES OF RODERIC RANDOM.

CHAP. I.

Of my Birth and Parentage.

I was born in the northern part of this united kingdom, in the house of my grandfather, a gentleman of considerable fortune and influence, who had on many occasions signalized himself in behalf of his country; and was remarkable for his abilities in the law, which he exercised with great success, in the station of a judge, particularly against beggars, for whom he had a singular aversion.

My father (his younger son) falling in love with a poor relation, who lived with the old gentleman in quality of housekeeper, espoused her privately: and I was the first fruit of that marriage. — During her pregnancy, a dream discomposed my mother so much, that her husband, tired with her importunity, at last consulted a highland seer, whose favourable interpretation he would have secured before hand by a bribe, but found him incorruptible. She dreamed,

she was delivered of a tennis-ball, which the devil, (who, to her great surprise, acted the part of midwife) struck so forcibly with a racket, that it disappeared in an instant; and she was for some time inconsolable for the loss of her offspring; when all of a sudden she beheld it return with equal violence, and enter the earth beneath her feet, whence immediately sprang up a goodly tree, covered with blossoms, the scent of which operated so strongly on her nerves, that she awoke. The attentive sage, after some deliberation, assured my parents, that their first-born would be a great traveller; that he would undergo many dangers and difficulties, and at last return to his native land, where he would flourish in happiness and reputation. — How truly this was foretold will appear in the sequel. — It was not long before some officious person informed my grandfather of certain familiarities that passed between his son and housekeeper, which alarmed him so much, that, a few days after, he told my father it was high time for him to think of settling; and that he had provided a match for him, to which he could in justice have no objection. My father, finding it would be impossible to conceal his situation much longer, frankly owned what he had done,

and excused himself for not having asked the consent of his father, by saying, he knew it would have been to no purpose; and that, had his inclination been known, my grandfather might have taken such measures as would have effectually put the gratification of it out of his power; he added, that no exceptions could be taken to his wife's virtue, birth, beauty, and good sense, and as for fortune, it was beneath his care-- The old gentleman, who kept all his passions, except one, in excellent order, heard him to an end with great temper; and then calmly asked, how he proposed to maintain himself and spouse? He replied, he could be in no danger of wanting, while his father's tenderness remained, which he and his wife should always cultivate with the utmost veneration; that he was persuaded his allowance would be suitable to the dignity and circumstances of his family; and to the provision already made for his brothers and sisters, who were happily and settled under his protection. —

„Your brothers and sisters, said my grandfather, did not think it beneath them to consult me in an affair of such importance as matrimony; neither (I suppose) would you have omitted that piece of duty, had not you some secret fund in reserve; to the comforts of which

I leave you, with a desire that you will this night seek out another habitation for yourself and wife, whither, in a short time, I will send you an account of the expence I have been at in your education, with a view of being reimbursed. — Sir, you have made the grand tour — you are a polite gentleman — a very pretty gentleman; I wish you a great deal of joy, and am your very humble servant.“ So saying, he left my father in a situation easily imagined. / However, he did not long hesitate; for, being perfectly well acquainted with his father's disposition, he did not doubt that he was glad of this pretence to get rid of him; and his resolves being invariable as the laws of the Medes and Persians, he knew it would be to no purpose to attempt him by prayers and intreaties; so, without any farther application, he betook himself, with his disconsolate bedfellow, to a farmhouse, where an old servant of his mother dwelt; there they remained for some time in a situation but ill adapted to the elegance of their desires and tenderness of their love; which nevertheless my father chose to endure, rather than supplicate an unnatural, and inflexible parent; but my mother foreseeing the inconveniencies to which she must have been exposed, had she been delivered in this

place, (and her pregnancy was very far advanced) without communicating her design to her husband, went in disguise to the house of my grandfather, hoping that her tears and condition would move him to compassion, and reconcile him to an event which was now irrevocably past. — She found means to deceive the servants, and was introduced as an unfortunate lady, who wanted to complain of some matrimonial grievances, it being my grandfather's particular province to decide in all cases of scandal. She was accordingly admitted into his presence, where, discovering herself, she fell at his feet, and in the most affecting manner, implored his forgiveness; at the same time, representing the danger that threatened not only her life, but that of his own grand child, which was about to see the light. — He told her he was sorry that the indiscretion of her and his son had compelled him to make a vow, which put it out of his power to give them any assistance. — That he had already imparted his thoughts on that subject to her husband, and was surprised that they should disturb his peace with any further importunity. — This said, he retired. — The violence of my mother's affliction had such an effect

on her constitution, that she was immediately seized with the pains of child-bed; and had not an old maid servant, to whom she was very dear, afforded her pity and assistance, at the hazard of incurring my grandfather's displeasure, she and the innocent fruit of her womb must have fallen miserable victims to his rigour and inhumanity. — By the friendship of this poor woman, she was carried up to a garret, and immediately delivered of a man child, the story of whose unfortunate birth he himself now relates. — My father being informed of what had happened, flew to the embraces of his darling spouse, and while he loaded his offspring with paternal caresses, could not forbear shedding a flood of tears, on beholding the dear partner of his heart, stretched upon a flock bed, in a miserable apartment, unable to protect her from the inclemencies of the weather. — It is not to be supposed that the old gentleman was ignorant of what passed, though he affected to know nothing of the matter, and pretended to be very much surprised, when one of his grandchildren, by his eldest son deceased, who lived with him as his heir apparent, acquainted him with the affair: he determined therefore to observe no medium, but immediately (on

the third day after her delivery) sent her a peremptory order to be gone, and turned off the servant who had preserved her life. This behaviour so exasperated my father, that he had recourse to the most dreadful imprecations; and on his bare knees implored that heaven would renounce him, if ever he should forget or forgive the barbarity of his sire. The injuries which this unhappy mother received from her removal in such circumstances, and the want of necessaries where she lodged, together with her grief and anxiety of mind, soon threw her into a languishing disorder, which put an end to her life. My father, who loved her tenderly, was so affected with her death, that he remained six weeks deprived of his senses; during which time, the people where he lodged carried the infant to the old man, who relented so far, on hearing the melancholy story of his daughter in law's death, and the deplorable condition of his son, as to send the child to nurse; and he ordered my father to be carried home to his house, where he soon recovered the use of his reason. — Whether this hard hearted judge felt any remorse for his cruel treatment of his son and daughter; or (which was more probable) was afraid his character would suffer in the neighbourhood; he professed

great sorrow for his conduct to my father, whose delirium was succeeded by a profound melancholy and, reserve. At length he disappeared, and notwithstanding all imaginary inquiry, could not be heard of, a circumstance which confirmed most people in the opinion of his having made away with himself in a fit of despair. — How I understood the particulars of my birth will appear in the course of these memoirs.

CHAP. II.

I grow up — Am hated by my Relations — Sent to School — Neglected by my Grandfather — Maltreated by my Master — Seasoned to Adversity — I form Cabals against the Pedant — Am debarred Access to my Grandfather — Hunted by his Heir — I demolish the Teeth of his Tutor.

There were not wanting some, who suspected my uncles of being concerned in my father's fate, on the supposition that they would all share in the patrimony destined for him: and this conjecture was strengthened by reflecting, that in all his calamities they never discovered the least inclination to serve him; but, on the contrary,

by all the artifices in their power, fed his father's resentment, and supported his resolution of leaving him to misery and want. — But people of judgment treated this insinuation as an idle chimera: because, had my relations been so wicked as to consult their interest, by committing such an atrocious crime, the fate of my father would have extended to me too, whose life was another obstacle to their expectation. Mean while I grew apace, and as I strongly resembled my father, who was the darling of the tenants, I wanted nothing which their indigent circumstances could afford; but their favour was a weak resource against the jealous enmity of my cousins: who, the more my infancy promised, conceived the more implacable hatred against me; and before I was six years of age, had so effectually blockaded my grandfather, that I never saw him but by stealth, when I sometimes made up to his chair, as he sat to view his labourers in the field: on which occasions, he would stroke my head, bid me be a good boy, and promise to take care of me. — I was soon after sent to school at a village hard by; but as he never paid for my board nor supplied me with cloaths, books, and other neccessaries I required, my

condition was very ragged and contemptible, and the school-master, who, through fear of my grandfather, taught me *gratis*, gave himself no concern about the progress I made under his instruction. In spite of all these difficulties and disgraces, I became a good proficient in the Latin tongue; and, as soon as I could write tolerably, pestered my grandfather with letters to such a degree, that he sent for my master, and chid him severely for bestowing such pains on my education, telling him that if ever I should be brought to the gallows for forgery, which he had taught me to commit, my blood would lie on his head. — The pedant, who dreaded nothing more than the displeasure of his patron, assured his honour that the boy's ability was more owing to his own genius and application, than to any instruction or encouragement he received; that although he could not divest him of the knowledge he had already imbibed, unless he would empower him to disable his fingers, he should endeavour to prevent his future improvement. And indeed he punctually performed what he had undertaken, for, on pretence that I had wrote impertinent letters to my grandfather, he caused a board to be made with five holes in it, through which he thrust the

Fingers and thumb of my right hand, and fastened it by whip-cord to my wrist, in such a manner as effectually debarred me the use of my pen. But this restraint I was freed from in a few days, by an accident which happened in a quarrel between me and another boy, who taking upon him to insult my poverty, I was so incensed at his ungenerous reproach, that with one stroke of my machine, I cut him to the skull, to the great terror of myself and school-fellows, who left him bleeding on the ground, and ran to inform the master of what had happened. I was so severely punished for this trespass, that, were I to live to the age of Methusalem the impression it made on me would not be effaced: no more than the antipathy and horror I conceived for the merciless tyrant who inflicted it. The contempt which my appearance naturally produced in all who saw me, the continual wants to which I was exposed, and my own haughty disposition, impatient of affronts, involved me in a thousand troublesome adventures, by which I was at length inured to adversity, and emboldened to undertakings far above my years. I was often inhumanly scourged for crimes I did not commit, because, having the character of a vagabond in the village,

every piece of mischief, whose author lay unknown, was charged upon me. I have been found guilty of robbing orchards I never entered, of killing cats I never hurted, of stealing gingerbread I never touched, and of abusing old women I never saw. — Nay, a stammering carpenter had eloquence enough to persuade my master, that I fired a pistol loaded with small shot into his windows; though my landlady and the whole family bore witness that I was a-bed, fast asleep at the time the outrage was committed. — I was once flogged for having narrowly escaped drowning, by the sinking of a ferry-boat in which I was passenger. — Another time for having recovered of a bruise occasioned by a horse and cart running over me. A third time for being bit by a baker's dog. — In short, whether I was guilty or unfortunate, the correction and sympathy of this arbitrary pedagogue were the same. Far from being subdued by this infernal usage, my indignation triumphed over that slavish awe which had hitherto enforced my obedience; and the more my years and knowledge increased, the more I perceived the injustice and barbarity of his behaviour. By the help of an uncommon genius, and the advice and direction of our usher, who had served my father in

his travels, I made a surprising progress in the classics, writing, and arithmetic; so that before I was twelve years old, I was allowed by every body to be the best scholar in the school. This qualification, together with a boldness of temper, and strength of make, which had subjected almost all my contemporaries, gave me such influence over them, that I began to form cabals against my prosecutor; and was in hopes of being able to bid him defiance in a very short time. — Being at the head of a faction, consisting of thirty boys, most of them of my own age, I was determined to put their metal to trial, that I might know how far they were to be depended upon, before I put my grand scheme in execution; with this view, we attacked a body of stout apprentices, who had taken possession of a part of the ground allotted to us for the scene of our diversions, and who were then playing at ninepins on the spot: but I had the mortification to see my adherents routed in an instant, and the leg of one of them broke in his flight by the bowl, which one of our adversaries had detached in pursuit of us. — This discomfiture did not hinder us from engaging them afterwards in frequent skirmishes, which we maintained by throwing stones at a distance,

wherein I received many wounds, the scars of which still remain. Our enemies were so harassed and interrupted by these alarms, that they at last abandoned their conquest, and left us to the peaceable enjoyment of our own territories. — It would be endless to enumerate the exploits we performed in the course of this confederacy, which became the terror of the whole village: insomuch, that when different interest divided it, one of the parties, commonly courted the assistance of Roderic Random, (by which name I was known) to cast the balance and keep the opposite faction in awe. — Meanwhile I took the advantage of every play-day to present myself before my grandfather, to whom I seldom found access, by reason of his being closely besieged by a numerous family of his female grand children, who, though they perpetually quarrelled among themselves, never failed to join against me, as the common enemy of all. His heir, who was about the age of eighteen, minded nothing but fox-hunting, and indeed was qualified for nothing else, notwithstanding his grandfather's indulgence, in entertaining a tutor for him at home; who at the same time performed the office of parish clerk. This young Acteon, who inherited his grandfather's antipathy to

every thing in distress, never set eyes on me, without uncoupling his beagles, and hunting me into some cottage or other, whither I generally fled for shelter. In this Christian amusement he was encouraged by his preceptor, who, no doubt, took such opportunities to ingratiate himself with the rising sun, observing that the old gentleman, according to the course of nature, had not long to live, for he was already on the verge of four-score. — The behaviour of this rascally sycophant incensed me so much, that one day, when I was beleagured by him and his hounds, in a farmer's house, where I had found protection, I took aim at him with a large pebble, which struck out four of his fore-teeth, and effectually incapacitated him for doing the office of a clerk.

CHAP. III.

*My Mother's Brother arrives — Relieves me —
A Description of him — He goes along with
me to the House of my Grandfather — Is
encountered by his Dogs — Defeats them
after a bloody Engagement — Is admitted*

to the old Gentleman — A Dialogue between them.

About this time my mother's only brother, who had been long abroad, lieutenant of a man of war, arrived in his own country; where, being informed of my condition, he came to see me, and out of his slender finances not only supplied me with what necessaries I wanted for the present, but resolved not to leave the country until he had prevailed on my grandfather to settle something handsome on me for the future. This was a task to which he was by no means equal, being entirely ignorant, not only of the judge's disposition, but also of the ways of men in general, to which his education on board had kept him an utter stranger. — He was a strong built man, somewhat bandy-legged, with a neck like that of a bull, and a face which had withstood the most obstinate assaults of the weather. — His dress consisted of a soldier's coat, altered by the ship's taylor, a striped flannel jacket, a pair of red breeches, japanned with pitch, clean grey worsted stockings, large silver buckles, that covered three-fourths of his shoes, a silver laced hat, whose crown over-looked the brims an inch and a half, a black bob

wig in buckle, a check shirt, a silk handkerchief, and a hanger with a brass handle, girded to his thigh by a tarnished laced belt, and a good oak plant under his arm. — Thus equipped, he set out with me (who by his bounty made a very decent appearance) for my grandfather's house, where we were saluted by Jowler and Caesar, whom my cousin, the young master, had let loose at our approach. Being well acquainted with the inveteracy of these curs, I was about to betake myself to my heels, when my uncle seized me with one hand, brandished his cudgel with the other, and at one blow laid Caesar sprawling on the ground: but, finding himself attacked at the same time in the rear by Jowler, and fearing Caesar might recover, he drew his hanger, wheeled about, and by a lucky stroke, severed Jowlers head from his body. — By this time the young fox-hunter and three servants, armed with pitch forks and flails, were come to the assistance of the dogs, whom they found breathless upon the field: and my cousin was so provoked at the death of his favourites, that he ordered his attendants, to advance and take vengeance on their executioner, whom he loaded with all the curses and reproaches his anger could suggest. — Upon

which my uncle stept forward, with an undaunted air, at the sight of whose bloody weapon his antagonists fell back with precipitation, when he accosted their leader thus: — „Looke, brother, your dogs have boarded me without provocation; what I did was in my own defence... So you had best be civil, and let us shoot a head, clear of you,“ Whether the young squire misinterpreted my uncle's desire of peace, or was enraged at the fate of his hounds, beyond his usual pitch of resolution, I know not; but he snatched a flail from one of his followers, and came up with a shew of assaulting the lieutenant, who, putting himself in a posture of defence, proceeded thus: — „Looke, you lubberly son of a w—e, if you come a-thwart me, 'ware your gingerbread. — I'll be foul of your quarter, d—n me.“ This declaration, followed by a flourish of his hanger, seemed to check the progress of the young gentleman's choler, who, looking behind him, perceived his attendants had slunk into the house, shut the gate, and left him to decide the contention by himself. — Here a parley ensued, which was introduced by my cousin's asking, „Who the d—l are you? — What do you want? — Some scoundrel of a seaman, (I

suppose) who has deserted and turned thief. — But don't think you shall escape, sirrah — I'll have you hang'd, you dog, I will — your blood shall pay for that of my two hounds, you ragamuffin. — — I would not have parted with them to save your whole generation from the gallows, you ruffian you.“ — „None of your jaw, you swab — none of your jaw (replied my uncle) else I shall trim your lac'd jacket for you. I shall rub you down with an oaken towel, my boy — I shall.“ — So saying, he sheathed his hanger and grasped his cudgel. Meanwhile the people of the house being alarmed, one of my female cousins opened a window, and asked what was the matter? „The matter (answered the Lieutenant) no great matter, young woman. — I have business with the old gentleman, and this spark, belike, won't allow me to come along-side of him, that's all.“ — After a few minutes pause, we were admitted, and conducted to my grandfather's chamber, through a lane of my relations, who honoured me with very significant looks, as I passed along. When we came into the judge's presence, my uncle, after two or three sea bows, expressed himself in this manner: — „Your servant, your servant. — What chear, father? what chear! — I suppose you don't know

me; may-hap you don't — My name is Tom Bowling, — and this here boy, you look as if you did not know him neither, — 'tis like you may'nt. — He's new rigged, i'faith; his cloth don't shake in the wind so much as it was wont to do. 'Tis my nephew, d'ye see, Roderic Random, — your own flesh and blood, old gentleman. Don't lag a-stern, you dog," (pulling me forward.) My grandfather (who was laid up with the gout) received this relation, after his long absence, with that coldness of civility which was peculiar to him; told him he was glad to see him, and desired him to sit down. — „Thank ye, thank ye, sir, I had as lief stand, (said my uncle (for my own part I desire nothing of you; but if you have any conscience at all, do something for this poor boy, who has been used at a very unchristian rate. — Unchristian do I call it? — I am sure the Moors in Barbary have more humanity than to leave their little ones to want. I would fain know why my sister's son is more neglected than that there fair-weather Jack," (pointing to the young 'squire, who with the rest of my cousins had followed us into the room.) „Is not he as near a-kin to you as the other? — Is not he much handsomer, and better built than

that great chucklehead? — Come, come, consider, old gentleman, you are going in a short time to give an account of your evil actions. Remember the wrongs you did his father; and make all the satisfaction in your power, before it be too late. — The least thing you can do is to settle his father's portion on him." — The young ladies, who thought themselves too much concerned to contain themselves any longer, set up their throats all together against my protector. ——"Scurvy companion, — saucy tarpaulin, — rude, impertinent fellow, did he think to prescribe to grandpapa? — His sister's brat had been too well taken care of. — Grandpapa was too just not to make a difference between an unnatural rebellious son, and his dutiful loving children, who took his advice in all things:" and such expressions were vented against him with great violence; until the judge at length commanded silence. He calmly rebuked my uncle for his unmannerly behaviour, which he said he would excuse on account of his education: he told him he had been very kind to the boy, whom he had kept at school seven or eight years, although he was informed he made no progress in his learning; but was addicted to

all manner of vice, which he rather believed, because he himself was a witness to a barbarous piece of mischief he had committed on the jaws of his chaplain. — But, however, he would see what the lad was fit for, and bind him apprentice to some honest tradesman or other, provided he would mend his manners, and behave for the future as became him. — The honest tar (whose pride and indignation boiled within him) answered my grandfather, that it was true he had sent him to school, but it had cost him nothing, for he had never been at one shilling expence, to furnish him with food, raiment, books, or other necessaries; so that it was not much to be wondered, if the boy made small progress; and yet, whoever told him so, was a lying, lubberly rascal, and deserved to be keel-hauled; for thof he (the lieutenant) did not understand those matters himself, he was well informed as how Rory was the best scholar of his age, in all the country; the truth of which he would maintain, by laying a wager of his whole half year's pay on the boy's head; — (with these words he pulled out his purse, and challenged the company). „Neither is he predicted to vice, as you affirm, but rather left like a wreck (d'ye see)

at the mercy of the wind and weather, by your neglect, old gentleman. — As for what happened to your chaplain, I am only sorry, that he did not knock out the scoundrel's brains, instead of his teeth. — By the Lord, if ever I come up with him, he had better be in Greenland, — that's all. — Thank you for your courteous offer of binding the lad apprentice to a tradesman. I suppose you would make a taylor of him — would you? — I had rather see him hang'd, d'ye see — Come along, Rory, I perceive how the land lies, my boy, — let's tack about, i'faith, while I have a shilling, thou shan't want a tester. — B'ye old gentleman, you're bound for the other world, but I believe damnably ill provided for the voyage." — Thus ended our visit; and we returned to the village, my uncle muttering curses all the way against the old shark and the young fry that surrounded him.

CHAP. IV.

My grandfather makes his Will — Our second Visit — He dies — His Will is read in presence of all his living Descendants — The Disappointment of my female Cousins — My Uncle's behaviour.

A few weeks after our visit, we were informed that the old judge, at the end of a fit of thought-fulness, which lasted three days, had sent for a notary and made his will; that the distemper had mounted from his legs to his stomach, and being conscious of his approaching end, he had desired to see all his descendants without exception. — In obedience to this summons, my uncle set out with me a second time, to receive the last benediction of my grandfather; often repeating by the road, „Ey, ey, we have brought up the old hulk at last. — You shall see — you shall see the effect of my admonition.“ — When we entered his chambre, which was crouded with his relations, we advanced to the bed-side, where we found him in his last agonies, supported by two of his grand-daughters, who sat on each side of him, sobbing most piteously, and wiping away the froth and slaver as it gathered on his lips, which they frequently kissed with a shew of great anguish and affection. — My

uncle approached him with these words, „What! he's not a weigh, — How fare ye — how fare ye, old gentleman? Lord have mercy upon your poor sinful soul.“ — Upon which the dying man turned his languid eyes towards us, and Mr. Bowling went on — „Here's poor Rory come to see you before you die, and receive your blessing — What, man! don't despair, — you have been a great sinner 'tis true, what then? There's a righteous judge above, an't there? He minds me no more than a porpuß. Yes, yes, he's a-going, — the land crabs will have him, I see that: his anchor's a-peak, i'faith.“ — This homely consolation scandalized the company so much, and especially the parson, who probably thought his province invaded, that we were obliged to retire into the other room, where in a few minutes, we were convinced of my grandfather's decease, by a dismal yell uttered by the young ladies in his apartment: whither we immediately hastened, and found his heir, who had retired a little before into a closet, under pretence of giving vent to his sorrow, asking with a countenance beslobbered with tears, if his grandpapa was certainly dead? — „Dead! (says my uncle, looking at the body) ay, ay, I warrant him as dead as a her-

ring. —— Odd's fish! now my dream is out for all the world. — I thought I stood upon the forecastle, and saw a parcel of carrion crows foul of a dead shark that floated alongside, and the devil perching on our sprid-sail yard, in the likeness of a blue bear — who, d'ye see, jumped over-board upon the carcase, and carried it to the bottom in his claws.“ — „Out upon thee reprobate (cries the parson) out upon thee, blasphemous wretch! — Dost thou think his honour's soul is in the possession of Satan?“ — The clamour immediately arose, and my poor uncle, being shouldered from one corner of the room to the other, was obliged to lug out in his own defence, and swear he would turn out for no man, till such time as he knew who had a title to send him adrift. —— „None of your tricks upon travellers, said he: mayhap, old Buff has left my kinsman here, his heir: — If he has, it will be the better for his miserable soul. — Odds bobs; I'd desire no better news. — I'd soon make him a clear ship I warrant you.“ To avoid any further disturbance one of my grandfather's executors, who was present, assured Mr. Bowling, that his nephew should have all manner of justice; that a day should be appointed, after the

funeral, for examining the papers of the deceased, in presence of all his relations; till which time every desk and cabinet in the house should remain close sealed; and that he was very welcome to be witness to this ceremony, which was immediately performed to his satisfaction. — In the mean time, orders were given to provide mourning for all the relations, in which number I was included; but my uncle would not suffer me to accept of it, until I should be assured whether or no I had reason to honour his memory so far. — During this interval, the conjectures of people, with regard to the old gentleman's will, were various: as it was well known, he had, besides his landed estate, which was worth 700 l. per annum, six or seven thousand pounds at interest; some imagined, that the whole real estate (which he had greatly improved) would go to the young man whom he always entertained as his heir; and that the money would be equally divided between my female cousins (five in number) and me — Others were of opinion, that as the rest of his children had been already provided for, he would only bequeath two or three hundred pounds to each of his grand-daughters, and leave the bulk of the sum to me, to atone

for his unnatural usage of my father. — At length the important hour arrived, and the will was produced in the midst of the expectants, whose looks and gestures formed a group that would have been very entertaining to an unconcerned spectator. — But the reader can scarce conceive the astonishment and mortification that appeared, when an attorney pronounced aloud, the young 'squire sole heir of all his grandfather's estate, personal and real. — My uncle, who had listened with great attention, sucking the head of his cudgel all the while, accompanied these words of the attorney with a stare, and *whew*, that alarmed the whole assembly. The eldest and pertest of my female competitors, who had been always very officious about my grandfather's person, enquired with a faltering accent, and visage as yellow as an orange, „if there were no legacies?“ and was answered, „none at all.“ — Upon which she fainted away. — The rest, whose expectations were not so sanguine, supported their disappointment with more resolution, though not without giving evident marks of indignation and grief, at least as genuine as that which appeared in them at the old gentleman's death. My conductor, after

having kicked with his heel for sometime against the wainscot, began: „so there's no legacy, friend, ha! — here's an old succubus; — but somebody's soul howls for it, d—n me!“ — The parson of the parish, who was one of the executors, and had acted as ghostly director to the old man, no sooner heard this exclamation, than he cried out; „Avaunt, unchristian reviler! avaunt! wilt thou not allow the soul of his honour to rest in peace?“ — But this zealous pastor did not find himself so warmly seconded, as formerly, by the young ladies, who now joined my uncle against him, and accused him of having acted the part of a busy body with their grandpapa, whose ears he had certainly abused by false stories to their prejudice, or else he would not have neglected them in such an unnatural manner. — The young 'squire was much diverted with this scene, and whispered to my uncle, that if he had not murdered his dogs, he would have shewn him glorious fun, by hunting a black badger (so he termed the clergyman). — The surly lieutenant, who was not in a humor to relish this amusement, replied, „You and your dogs may be d—ned— I suppose you will find them with your old dad, in the latitude of hell. — Come,

Rory, —— about ship, my lad, we must steer another course, I think.“ — And away we went.

CHAP. V.

The Schoolmaster uses me barbarously — I form a Project of Revenge, in which I am assisted by my Uncle — I leave the Village — Am settled at an University by his Generosity.

On our way back to the village, my uncle spoke not a word during the course of a whole hour: but whistled with great vehemence, the tune of *Why should we quarrel for riches, etc.* his visage being contracted all the while into a most formidable frown. At length his pace encreased to such a degree, that I was left behind a considerable way: then he waited for me; and when I was almost up with him, called out in a surly tone, „Bear a hand damme! must I bring to every minute for you, you lazy dog.“ — Then laying hold of me by the arm, hauled me along, until his good nature and reflection getting the better of his passion, he said, „Come my boy, don't be cast down — the old rascal is in hell;

— that's some satisfaction; you shall go to sea with me, my lad. — *A light heart and a thin pair of breeches, goes through the world, brave boys;* as the song goes—eh?—
Though this proposal did not at all suit my inclination, I was afraid of discovering my aversion to it, lest I should disoblige the only friend I had in the world; and he was so much a seaman, that he never dreamt I could have any objection to his design; consequently gave himself no trouble in consulting my approbation. But this resolution was soon dropt, by the advice of our usher, who assured Mr. Bowling, it would be a thousand pities to baulk my genius, which would certainly, one day, make my fortune on shore, provided it received due cultivation — Upon which this generous tar determined (though he could ill afford it) to give me university education; and accordingly settled my board and other expences, at a town not many miles distant, famous for its colleges, whither we repaired in a short time. But, before the day of our departure, the schoolmaster, who no longer had the fear of my grandfather before his eyes, laid aside all decency and restraint, and not only abused me in the grossest language, as a wicked, profligate, dull,

beggarly miscreant, whom he had taught out of charity, but also inveighed in the most bitter manner against the memory of the judge (who by the bye had procured that settlement for him) hinting, in pretty plain terms, that the old gentleman's soul was damned to all eternity, for his injustice in neglecting to pay for my learning. — This brutal behaviour, adding to the sufferings I had formerly undergone, made me think it high time to be revenged of this insolent pedagogue. Having consulted my adherents, I found them all staunch in their promises to stand by me; and our scheme was this: — In the afternoon preceding the day of my departure for the university, I resolved to take the advantage of the usher's going out to make water, and shut the great door, that he might not come to the assistance of his superior. This being done, the assault was to be begun, by my advancing to my master and spitting in his face. I was to be seconded by two of the strongest boys in the school, who were devoted to me; their business was to join me in dragging the tyrant to a bench, over which he was to be laid, and his bare posteriors heartily flogged with his own birch, which we proposed to wrest from

him in the struggle; but if we should find him too many for us all three, we were to demand the assistance of our competitors, who should be ready to reinforce us, or oppose anything that might be undertaken for the master's relief. One of my principal assistants was called Jeremy Gawky, son and heir of a wealthy gentleman in the neighbourhood; and the name of the other Hugh Strap, the cadet of a family which had given shoemakers to the village time out of mind — I had once saved Gawky's life by plunging into a river and dragging him on shore, when he was on the point of being drowned. — I had often rescued him from the clutches of those whom his unsufferable arrogance had provoked to a resentment he was not able to sustain; and many times saved his reputation and posteriors, by performing his exercises at school; so that it is not to be wondered at if he had a particular regard for me and my interests. The attachment of Strap flowed from a voluntary, disinterested inclination, which had manifested itself on many occasions in my behalf, he having once rendered me the same service that I had done Gawky, by saving my life at the risk of his own; and often fathered offences that I had committed, for which he suffered

severely, rather than I should feel the weight of the punishment I deserved. — These two champions were the more willing to engage in this enterprize, because they intended to leave the shool the next day, as well as I; the first being ordered by his father to return into the country, and the other being bound apprentice to a barber, at a market town not far off.

In the mean time my uncle being informed of my master's behaviour to me, was enraged at his insolence, and vowed revenge so heartily that I could not refrain from telling him the scheme I had concerted, which he heard with great satisfaction, at every sentence squirting out a mouthful of spittle, tingured with tobacco, of which he constantly chewed a large quid. — At last, pulling up his breeches, he cried, „No, no, Z—ds! that won't do neither, — howsomever, 'tis a bold undertaking, my lad, — that I must say, i'faith! — but lookee, lookee, how dost propose to get clear off? — won't the enemy give chase, my boy? — aye, aye, that he will I warrant, — and alarm the whole coast. — Ah! God help thee, more sail than ballast, Rory. — Let me alone for that — leave the whole to me — I'll shew him the fore top-sail, I will. — If so be your ship-mates are jolly boys and won't flinch, you shall

see, you shall see, egad, I'll play him a salt - water trick — I'll bring him to the gang - way, and anoint him with a cat of nine tails; he shall have a round dozen doubled, my lad, he shall — and be left lashed to his meditations.“ We were very proud of our associate, who immediately went to work, and prepared the instrument of his revenge with great skill and expedition; after which he ordered our baggage to be packed up and sent off, a day before our attempt, and got horses ready to be mounted, as soon as the affair should be over. At length the hour arrived, when our auxiliary, siezing the opportunity of the usher's absence, bolted in, secured the door, and immediately laid hold of the pedant by his collar, who bawled out, „Murder! Thieves!“ with the voice of a Stentor. Though I trembled all over like an aspen leaf, I knew there was no time to be lost, and accordingly got up, and summoned our associates to my assistance. — Strap, without any hesitation, obeyed the signal, and seeing me leap upon the master's back, ran immediately to one of his legs, which, pulling with all his force, his dreadful adversary was humbled to the ground: upon which Gawky, who had hitherto remained in his place, under the

influence of an universal trepidation, hastened to the scene of action, and insulted the fallen tyrant with a loud huzza, in which the whole school joined. — This noise alarmed the usher, who, finding himself shut out, endeavoured, partly by threats; and partly by entreaties, to procure admission. — My uncle bade him have a little patience, and he would let him in presently: but if he pretended to move from that place it should fare worse with the son of a b——h his superior, on whom he intended only to bestow a little wholesome chastisement, for his barbarous usage to Rory, „to which (said he) you are no stranger.“ — By this time we had dragged the criminal to a post, to which Bowling tied him with a rope he had provided on purpose, after having secured his hands and stripped his back. — In this ludicrous posture he stood (to the no small entertainment of the boys, who crowded about him and shouted with great exultation at the novelty of the sight) venting bitter imprecations against the lieutenant, and reproaching his scholars with treachery and rebellion: when the usher was admitted, whom my uncle accosted in this manner; „Harkee, Mr. Syntax, I believe you are an honest man, d’ye see — and I have a

respect for you — but for all that, we must, for our own security (d'ye see) belay you for a short time," — With these words he pulled out some fathoms of cord, which the honest man no sooner saw, than he protested with great earnestness, he would allow no violence to be offered to him, at the same time accusing me of perfidy and ingratitude. But Bowling representing that it was in vain to resist, and that he did not mean to use him with violence and indecency; but only to hinder him from raising the hue and cry against us, before we should be out of their power; he allowed himself to be bound to his own desk, where he sat a spectator of the punishment inflicted on his principal. My uncle having upbraided this arbitrary wretch with his inhumanity to me, told him, that he proposed to give him a little discipline for the good of his soul, which he immediately put in practice with great vigour and dexterity. This smart application to the pedant's withered posteriors gave him such exquisite pain, that he roared like a mad bull, danced, cursed, and blasphemed like a frantic bedlamite. When the lieutenant thought himself sufficiently revenged, he took his leave of him in these words, „Now, friend,

you'll remember me the longest day you have to live. — I have given you a lesson that will let you know what flogging is, and teach you to have more sympathy for the future — shout, boys, shout.“ — This ceremony was no sooner over, than my uncle proposed they should quit the school, and convoy their old comrade Rory to a public house, about a mile from the village, where he would treat them all. — His offer being joyfully embraced, he addressed himself to Mr. Syntax, and begged him to accompany us; but this invitation he refused with great disdain, telling my benefactor he was not the man he took him to be. — Well, well, old surly, (replied my uncle, shaking his hand) thou art an honest fellow notwithstanding; and if ever I have the command of a ship, thou shalt be our schoolmaster, i'faith.“ So saying, he dismissed the boys, and, locking the door, left the two preceptors to console one another; while we moved forwards on our journey, attended by a numerous retinue, whom he treated according to his promise. — We parted with many tears, and lay that night at an inn on the road, about ten miles short of the town where I was to remain, at which we arrived next day, and I found I had no cause to complain of the accommodations provided

for me; in being boarded at the house of an apothecary, who had married a distant relation of my mother. In a few days after, my uncle set out for his ship, having settled the necessary funds for my maintenance and education.

CHAP. VI.

I make great progress in my Studies — Am caressed by every body. — My female Cousins take notice of me. — I reject their Invitation — They are incensed, and conspire against me — I am left destitute by a Misfortune that befalls my Uncle — Gawky's Treachery — my Revenge.

As I was capable of reflection, I began to consider my precarious situation; that I was utterly abandoned by those whose duty it was to protect me; and that my sole dependence was on the generosity of one man, who was not only exposed by his profession to continual dangers, which might one day deprive me of him for ever; but also, subject to those vicissitudes of disposition, which a change of fortune usually creates; or, which a better acquaintance with the world might produce: for I always ascribed

his benevolence to the dictates of a heart as yet undebauched by a commerce with mankind — Alarmed at these considerations, I resolved to apply myself with great care to my studies, and enjoy the opportunity in my power: This I did with such success, that in the space of three years I understood Greek very well, was pretty far advanced in the mathematics, and no stranger to moral and natural philosophy; but above all things, I valued myself on my taste in the Belle Lettres, and a talent for poetry, which had already produced some pieces, that met with a very favourable reception. These qualifications, added to a good face and shape, acquired the esteem and acquaintance of the most considerable people in town, and I had the satisfaction to find myself in some degree of favour with the ladies; an intoxicating piece of good fortune, to one of my amorous complexion; which I obtained, or at least preserved, by gratifying their propensity to scandal, and lampooning their rivals. — Two of my female cousins lived in this place, with their mother, since the death of their father, who left his whole fortune equally divided between them; so that, if they were not the most beautiful, they were at least the richest toasts in town;

and received daily the addresses of all the beaux and cavaliers of the country. — Although I had hitherto been looked upon by them with the most supercilious contempt, my character now attracted their notice so much, that I was given to understand, I might be honoured with their acquaintance, if I pleased. — The reader will easily perceive, that this condescension either flowed from the hope of making my poetical capacity subservient to their malice, or at least of screening themselves from the lash of my resentment, which they had effectually provoked. — I enjoyed this triumph with great satisfaction: and not only rejected their offer with disdain, but in all my performances, whether satire or panegyric, industriously avoided mentioning their names, even while I celebrated those of their intimates; this neglect mortified their pride exceedingly, and incensed them to such a degree, that they were resolved to make me repent of my indifference. — The first stroke of their revenge consisted in their hiring a poor collegian to write verses against me, the subject of which was my own poverty, and the catastrophe of my unhappy parents; but, besides the badness of the composition (of which they themselves were ashamed)

they did not find their account in endeavouring to reproach me with those misfortunes which they and their relations had brought upon me; and which, consequently, reflected much more dishonour on themselves than on me, who was the innocent victim of their barbarity and avarice. — Finding this plan miscarry, they found means to irritate a young gentleman against me, by telling him I had lampooned his mistress; and so effectually succeeded in the quality of incendiaries that this enraged lover determined to seize me next night, as I returned to my lodgings from a friend's house that I frequented: with this view, he waited in the street, attended by two of his companions, to whom he had imparted his design of carrying me down to the river, in which he proposed to have me heartily ducked, notwithstanding the severity of the weather, it being then about the middle of December. — But this stratagem did not succeed: for, being apprized of their ambush, I got home another way, and, by the help of my landlord's apprentice, discharged a volley from the garret window, which did great execution among them; and next day occasioned so much mirth at their expence, that they found themselves under the necessity of leaving the town, until the

adventure should be entirely forgotten. — My cousins, (though twice baffled in their expectations) did not, however, desist from persecuting me, who had now enraged them beyond a possibility of forgiveness, by detecting their malice, and preventing its effects; neither should I have found them more humane, had I patiently submitted to their rancour, and bore without murmuring the rigour of their unreasonable hate; for, I have found by experience, that though small favours may be acknowledged, and slight injuries atoned, there is no wretch so ungrateful as he whom you have most generously obliged; and no enemy so implacable, as those who have done you the greatest wrong. — These goodnatured creatures, therefore, had recourse to a scheme, which conspired with a piece of bad news I soon after received, to give them all the satisfaction they desired: this plan was to debauch the faith of my companion and confident, who betrayed the trust I reposed in him, by imparting to them the particulars of my small amours, which they published, with such exaggerations, that I suffered very much in the opinion of every body, and was utterly discarded by the dear creatures whose names had been called in question. — While

I was busy in tracing out the author of this treachery, that I might not only be revenged on him, but also vindicate my character to my friends, I one day perceived the looks of my landlady much altered, when I went home to dinner, and enquiring into the cause, she skrewed up her mouth, and fixing her eyes on the ground, told me her husband had received a letter from Mr. Bowling, with one inclosed for me — she was very sorry for what had happened, for both my sake and his own. — People should be more cautious of their conduct. — She was always afraid his brutal behaviour would bring him into some misfortune or other. — As for her part she should be very ready to befriend me; but she had a small family of her own to maintain. — The world would do nothing for her if she should come to want — charity begins at home; she wished I had been bound to some substantial handicraft, such as a weaver, or a shoe-maker, rather than loiter away my time in learning foolish nonsense that would never bring me in a penny — but some folks are wise, and some are otherwise. — I was listening to this mysterious discourse, with great amazement, when her husband entered, and, without speaking a syllable, put both the letters into my hand.

I received them trembling, and read what follows:

To Mr. ROGER POTION.

„SIR,

„This is to let you know that I have quitted the Thunder Man of War; being obliged to sheer off, for killing my Captain, which I did fairly on the beach at Cape Tiberoon, in the island of Hispaniola; having received his fire and returned it, which went through his body: — and I would serve the best man so that ever stepped between stem and stern, if so be, that he struck me, as captain Oakham did. I am, (thank God) safe among the French, who are very civil, though I don't understand their lingo, and I hope to be restored in a little time, for all the great friends and parliamentary interest of the captain, for I have sent over to my landlord in Deal an account of the whole affair, with our bearings and distances while we were engaged, whereby I have desired him to lay it before his Majesty, who, (God bless him) will not suffer an honest tar to be wronged. — My love to your spouse, and am

Your loving friend,

And servant to command, while

Thomas Bowling.“

To RODERIC RANDOM.

„DEAR RORY,

„Don't be grieved at my misfortune — but mind your book, my lad. I have got no money to send you; but what of that? — Mr. Potion will take care of you, for the love he bears to me: and let you want for nothing, and it shall go hard, but I will see him one day repaid. — No more at present, but rests

Your dutiful uncle

and servant: till death,

Thomas Bowling.“

This letter (which, with the other, was dated from Port Louis, in Hispaniola) I had no sooner read, than the apothecary, shaking his head, began: — „I have a very great regard for Mr. Bowling, that's certain, — and could be well content — but times are very hard. There's no such thing as money to be got — I believe it is all vanished under ground, for my part. — Besides, I have been out of pocket already, having entertained you since the beginning of this month without receiving a sixpence, — and God knows if ever I shall; — for I believe it will go hard with your uncle. — And, more than that, I was thinking of

giving you warning, for I want your apartment for a new 'prentice, whom I expect from the country every hour. — So I desire you will this week provide yourself with another lodging." — The indignation which this harangue inspired, gave me spirits to support my reverse of fortune; and to tell him, I despised his mean, selfish disposition so much, that I would rather starve than be beholden to him for one single meal. Upon which, out of my pocket-money, I paid him to the last farthing of what I owed, and assured him I would not sleep another night under his roof. This said, I sallied out in a transport of rage and sorrow, without knowing whither to fly for shelter, having not one friend in the world capable of relieving me, and only three shillings in my purse. After giving way for a few minutes to the dictates of my rage, I went and hired a small bed-room, at the rate of one shilling and sixpence per week, which I was obliged to pay per advance, before the landlord would receive me: thither I removed my luggage; and next morning got up, with a view of craving the advice and assistance of a person who had on all occasions loaded me with caresses, and made frequent offers of friendship, while I was under no necessity of

accepting them. He received me with his wonted affability, and insisted on my breakfasting with him, a favour which I did not think fit to refuse. But, when I communicated the occasion of my visit, he appeared so disconcerted, that I concluded him wonderfully affected with the misery of my condition, and looked upon him as a man of the most extensive sympathy and benevolence. He did not leave me long under this mistake; for, recovering himself from his confusion, he told me, he was grieved at my misfortune, and desired to know what had passed between my landlord, Mr. Potion, and me. Whereupon I recounted the conversation; and, when I repeated the answer I made to his ungenerous remonstrance, with regard to my leaving his house, this pretended friend affected a stare, and exclaimed, „is it possible you could behave so ill to the man who had treated you so kindly all along?“ — My surprize at hearing this, was not at all affected; and, I gave him to understand, with some warmth, that I did not imagine he would so unreasonably espouse the cause of a scoundrel, who ought to be expelled from every social community. This heat of mine gave him all the advantage he desired over me; and our discourse (after

much altercation) concluded in his desiring never to see me again in that place; to which desire I yielded my consent, assuring him, that had I been as well acquainted with his principles formerly, as I was now, he never should have had an opportunity of making that request — And thus we parted.

On my return, I met my comrade 'Squire Gawky, whom his father had sent, some time ago, to town, for his improvement in writing, dancing, fencing, and other modish qualifications. As I had lived with him, since his arrival, on the footing of our old intimacy, I made no scruple of informing him of the lowness of my circumstances, and asking a small supply of money to answer my present expence; upon which he pulled out a handful of halfpence, with a shilling or two among them, and swore that was all he had to keep his pocket till next quarter-day, he having lost the greatest part of his allowance the night before at billiards. Though his assertion might very well be true, I was extremely mortified at his indifference, for he neither expressed any sympathy for my mishap, nor desire of alleviating my distress; and accordingly I left him, without uttering one word; but when I afterwards understood that he was

the person who had formerly betrayed me to the malice of my cousins, to whom likewise he had carried the tidings of my forlorn situation, which afforded them great matter of triumph and exultation, I determined with myself to call him to a severe account; for which purpose I borrowed a sword, and wrote a challenge, desiring him to meet me at a certain time and place, that I might have an opportunity of punishing his perfidy, at the expence of his blood. He accepted the invitation, and I betook myself to the field, though not without feeling considerable repugnance to the combat, which frequently attacked me in cold sweats by the way; but the desire of revenge, the shame of retracting, and hope of conquest, conspired to repel these unmanly symptoms of fear, and I appeared on the plain with a good grace; there I waited an hour beyond the time appointed, and was not ill pleased to find he had no mind to meet me: because I should have an opportunity of exposing his cowardice, displaying my own courage, and of beating him soundly, where-soever I should find him, without any dread of the consequence —— Elevated with these suggestions, which entirely banished all thoughts of my deplorable condition, I went

directly to Gawky's lodgings, where I was informed of his precipitate retreat, he having set out for the country in less than an hour after he had received my billet: and I was vain enough to have the whole story inserted in the news, although I was fain to sell a gold-laced hat to my landlord, for less than half-price, to defray the expence, and contribute to my subsistence.

CHAP. VII.

I am entertained by Mr. Crab — A Description of him — I acquire the Art of Surgery — Consult Crab's Disposition — Become necessary to him — An Accident happens — He advises me to launch into the World — Assists me with Money — I set out for London.

The fumes of my resentment being dissipated, as well as the vanity of my success, I found myself deserted to all the horrors of extreme want, and avoided by mankind as a creature of a different species, or rather a solitary being, no ways comprehended within the scheme or protection of Providence. My despair had rendered me almost quite stupefied, when I was one day told

that a gentleman desired to see me at a certain public house, whither I immediately repaired; and was introduced to one Mr. Launcelot Crab, a surgeon in town, who was engaged, with two more, in drinking a liquor, called *pop-in*, composed by mixing a quartern of brandy, with a quart of small beer. Before I relate the occasion of this message, I believe it will not be disagreeable to the reader if I describe the gentleman who sent for me, and mention some circumstances of his character and conduct, which may illustrate what follows, and account for his behaviour to me.

This member of the faculty was aged fifty, about five feet high, and ten round the belly; his face was capacious as a full moon, and much of the complexion of a mulberry; his nose, resembling a powder-horn, was swelled to an enormous size, and studded over with carbuncles; and his little grey eyes reflected the rays in such an oblique manner that, while he looked a person full in the face, one would have imagined he was admiring the buckle of his shoe. — He had long entertained an implacable resentment against Potion, who, though a young practitioner, was better employed than he, and once had the assurance

to perform a cure, whereby he disappointed and disgraced the prognostic of the said Crab — This quarrel, which was at one time upon the point of being made up by the interposition and mediation of friends, had been lately inflamed beyond a possibility of reconciliation by the respective wives of the opponents, who, chancing to meet a christening, disagreed about precedence, proceeded from invectives to blows, and were, with great difficulty, by the gossips, prevented from converting the occasion of joy into a scene of lamentation.

The difference between these rivals was in the height of rancour when I received the message of Crab, who received me as civilly as I could have expected from one of his disposition; and, after desiring me to sit, enquired into the particulars of my leaving the house of Potion; which, when I had related, he said, with a malicious grin — „There's a sneaking dog! — I always thought him a fellow without a soul, d—n me! a canting scoundrel, who has crept into business by his hypocrisy, and kissing the a—se of every body.“ — „Aye, aye, (says another), one may see with half an eye, that the rascal has no honesty in him, by his going so regularly to church.“ This sentence was

confirmed by a third, who assured his companions that Potion was never known to be disguised in liquor but once, at a meeting of the godly, where he had distinguished himself by an *ex tempore* prayer, an hour long. — After this preamble Crab addressed himself to me in these words, „Well, my lad, I have heard a good character of you, and I'll do for you — You may send your things to my house when you please — I have given orders for your reception. — Z—ds! what does the booby stare at? If you have no mind to embrace my courteous offer, you may let it alone and be d—n'd.“ I answered, with a submissive bow, that I was far from rejecting his friendly offer, which I would immediately accept, as soon as he should inform me on what footing I was to be entertained — „What footing! — —d—n my blood, (cried he) d'ye expect to have a footman and a couple of horses kept for you?“ — „No, Sir: (I replied) my expectations are not quite so sanguine. — That I may be as little burthensome as possible, I would willingly serve in your shop, by which means I may save you the expense of a journeyman, or porter at least, for I undersand a little pharmacy, having employed some of my leisure hours in the practice of

that art, while I lived with Mr. Potion; neither am I altogether ignorant of surgery, which I have studied with great pleasure and application. — „O ho! you did? (says Crab.) Gentlemen, here is a complete artist? — Studied surgery! what? In books, I suppose. — I shall have you disputing with me one of those days, on points of my profession. — You can already account for muscular motion (I warrant) and explain the mystery of the brain and nerves — ha! — You are too learned for me, d—n me. — But let's hear no more of this stuff: — can you bleed and give a clyster, spread a plaister, and prepare a potion?“ — Upon my answering in the affirmative, he shook his head, telling me, he believed he should have little good of me, for all my promises; — but, however, he would take me in for the sake of charity. — I was accordingly that very night admitted to his house, and had an apartment assigned to me in the garret, which I was fain to put up with, notwithstanding the mortification my pride suffered in this change of circumstances. I was soon convinced of the real motives which induced Crab to receive me in this manner; for, besides the gratification of his revenge, by exposing the selfishness of his antagonist, in opposition

to his own generosity, which was all affectation, he had occasion for a young man who understood something of the profession, to fill up the place of his eldest apprentice, lately dead, not without violent suspicion of foul play from his master's brutality. The knowledge of this circumstance, together with his daily behaviour to his wife, and the young apprentice, did not at all contribute to my enjoying my new situation with ease; however, as I did not perceive how I could bestow myself to better advantage, I resolved to study Crab's temper with all the application, and manage it with all the address in my power. — And it was not long before I found out a strange peculiarity of humour, which governed his behaviour towards all his dependants. I observed, when he was pleased, he was such a niggard of his satisfaction, that if his wife or servants betrayed the least symptom of participation, he was offended to an insupportable degree of choler and fury, the effects of which they seldom failed to feel. — And, when his indignation was roused, submission and soothing always exasperated it beyond the bounds of reason and humanity. — I therefore pursued a contrary plan; and one day, when he honoured me with the names of ignorant whelp, and lazy

raggamuffin — I boldly replied, I was neither ignorant nor lazy, since I both understood and performed my business as well as he could do for his soul, neither was it just to call me raggamuffin, for I had a whole coat on my back, and was descended from a better family than any he could boast an alliance with. He gave tokens of great amazement at this assurance of mine, and shook his cane over my head, regarding me all the time, with a countenance truly diabolical. Although I was terribly startled at his menacing looks and posture, I yet had reflection enough left, to convince me I had gone too far to retract, and that this was the critical minute that must decide my future lot in his service; I therefore snatched up the pestle of a mortar, and swore, if he offered to strike me without a cause, I should see whether his skull or my weapon was hardest. He continued silent for some time, and at last broke forth into these ejaculations. — „This is fine usage from a servant to a master, — very fine! — damnation! — but no matter, you shall pay for this, you dog, you shall. — I'll do your business — yes, yes, I'll teach you to lift your hand against me.“ — So saying, he retired, and left me under dreadful apprehensions, which vanished

entirely at our next meeting, when he behaved with unusual complacency, and treated me with a glass of punch after dinner. By this conduct, I got the ascendancy over him in a short time, and became so necessary to him, in managing his business, while he was engaged at the bottle, that fortune began to wear a kinder aspect; and I consoled myself for the disregard of my former acquaintance, with the knowledge I daily imbibed, by a close application to the duties of my employment, in which I succeeded beyond my own expectation. — I was on very good terms with my master's wife, whose esteem I acquired and cultivated, by representing Mrs. Potion in the most ridiculous lights my satirical talents could invent, as well as by rendering her some christian offices, when she had been too familiar with the dram bottle, to which she had often times recourse for consolation, under the affliction she suffered from a barbarous husband. — In this manner I lived, without hearing the least tidings of my uncle, for the space of two years, during which time I kept little or no company, being neither in a humour to relish, nor in a capacity to maintain, much acquaintance: for the Nabal, my master, allowed me no wages;

and the small perquisites of my station scarce supplied me with the common necessities of life. — I was no longer a pert unthinking coxcomb, giddy with popular applause, and elevated with the extravagance of hope; my misfortunes had taught me how little the caresses of the world, during a man's prosperity, are to be valued by him; and how seriously and expeditiously he ought to set about making himself independent of them. My present appearance, therefore, was the least of my care, which was wholly engrossed in laying up a stock of instruction that might secure me against the caprice of fortune for the future. I became such a sloven, and contracted such an air of austerity, that every body pronounced me crest-fallen; and Gawky returned to town without running any risque from my resentment, which was by this time pretty much cooled, and restrained by prudential reasons so effectually, that I never so much as thought of obtaining satisfaction for the injuries he had done me. — When I deemed myself sufficiently master of my business, I began to cast about for an opportunity of launching into the world, in hope! of finding some provision that might make amends for the difficulties I had undergone; but, as this could not be effected

without a small sum of money to equip me for the field, I was in the utmost perplexity how to raise it, well knowing that Crab, for his own sake, would never put me in condition to leave him, when his interest was so much concerned in my stay. — But a small accident, which happened about this time, determined him in my favour. — This was no other than the pregnancy of his maid servant, who declared her situation to me, assuring me at the same time, that I was the occasion of it. Although I had no reason to question the truth of this imputation, I was not ignorant of the familiarities which had passed between her master and her; taking the advantage of which, I represented to her the folly of laying the burden at my door, when she might dispose of it to much better purpose with Mr. Crab: She listened to my advice, and next day acquainted him with the pretended success of their mutual endeavours. — He was far from being overjoyed at this proof of his vigour, which, he foresaw, might have very troublesome consequences; not that he dreaded any domestic grumblings and reproaches from his wife, whom he kept in perfect subjection; but because he knew it would furnish his rival Potion with a handle

for insulting and undermining his reputation, there being no scandal equal to that of uncleanness, in the opinion of those who inhabit the part of the island where he lived. — He therefore took a resolution worthy of himself, which was, to persuade the girl that she was not with child, but only afflicted with a disorder incident to young women, which he could easily remove: with this view (as he pretended) he prescribed her such medicines, as he thought would infallibly procure abortion; but in this scheme he was disappointed, for the maid being avertised by me of his design, and at the same time well acquainted with her own condition, absolutely refused to follow his directions; and threatened to publish her situation to the world, if he would not immediately take some method of providing for the important occasion, which she expected in a few months. It was not long before I guessed the result of his deliberation, by his addressing himself to me (on day) in this manner; „I am surprised that a young fellow like you discovers no inclination to push his fortune in the world. — Before I was your age, I was broiling on the coast of Guinea. — Damme! what's to hinder you from profiting by the war, which will certainly be declared

in a short time against Spain? you may easily go on board a king's ship in quality of a surgeon's mate, where you will certainly see a great deal of practice, and stand a good chance of getting prize-money." I laid hold of this declaration, which I had long wished for, and assured him I would follow his advice with pleasure, if it was in my power; but that it was impossible for me to embrace an opportunity of that kind as I had no friend to advance a little money, to supply me with what necessaries I should want, and defray the expences of my journey to London. He told me, that few necessaries were required; and as for the expence of my journey, he would lend me money, sufficient not only for that purpose, but also to maintain me comfortably in London, until I should procure a warrant for my provision on board of some ship. — I gave him a thousand thanks for his obliging offer (although I was very well apprised of his motive, which was no other than a design to lay the bastard to my charge, after my departure;) and accordingly set out in a few weeks for London; my whole fortune consisting of one suit of clothes, half a dozen of ruffled shirts, as many plain; two pair of worsted, and alike number of thread stockings;

a case of pocket instruments, a small edition of Horace, Wiseman's Surgery, and ten guineas in cash; for which Crab took my bond, bearing 5 per cent interest; at the same time he gave me a letter to the Member of Parliament for our Town, which, he said, would do my business effectually.

CHAP. VIII.

I Arrive at Newcastle — Meet with my old School-Fellow Strap — We determine to walk together to London — Set out on our Journey — Put up at a solitary Ale house — Are disturbed by a strange Adventure in the Night.

There is no such convenience as a waggon in this country, and my finances were too weak to support the expence of hiring a horse; I determined, therefore, to set out with the carriers, who transport goods from one place to another on horseback; and this scheme I accordingly put in execution, on the first day of November 1739, sitting upon a pack saddle between two baskets; one of which contained my goods in a knapsack. But by the time we arrived at Newcastle upon Tyne, I was so fatigued

with the tediousness of the carriage, and benumbed with the coldness of the weather, that I resolved to travel the rest of my journey on foot, rather than proceed in such a disagreeable manner.

The hostler of the inn at which we put up, understanding I was bound for London, advised me to take my passage in a collier, which would be both cheap and expeditious, and withal much easier than to walk upwards of three hundred miles through deep roads, in the winter time; a journey which he believed I had not strength enough to perform. — I was almost persuaded to take his advice, when, one day, stepping into a barber's shop to be shaved, the young man, while he lathered my face, accosted me thus: „Sir, I presume you are a Scotchman.“ I answered in the affirmative. — „Pray, (continued he) from what part of Scotland?“ — I no sooner told him, than he discovered great emotion, and not confining his operation to my chin and upper lip, he smeared my whole face with great agitation. — I was so offended at this profusion, that starting up, I asked him what the d—l he meant by using me so? — He begged pardon, telling me his joy at meeting with a countryman had occasioned some

confusion in him: and craved my name. — But, when I declared my name was Random, he exclaimed in a rapture, „How! Rory Random?“ The same I replied, looking at him with astonishment. „What, cried he, don't you know your old school fellow, Hugh Strap?“ At that instant recollecting his face, I flew into his arms, and in the transport of my joy, gave him back one half of the suds he had so lavishly bestowed on my countenance; so that we made a very ludicrous appearance, and furnished a great deal of mirth for his master and shopmates, who were witnesses of this scene. — When our mutual caresses were over, I sat down again to be shaved, but the poor fellow's nerves were so discomposed by this unexpected meeting, that his hand could scarcely hold the razor, with which (nevertheless) he found means to cut me in three places, in as many strokes. His master, perceiving his disorder, bade another supply his place and, after the operation, was performed, gave Strap leave to pass the rest of the day with me. — We retired immediately to my lodgings, where calling for some beer, I desired to be informed of his adventures, which contained nothing more, than that his master dying before his time was out,

he had come to Newcastle about a year ago, in expectation of journey-work, along with three young fellows of his acquaintance who worked in the keels; that he had the good fortune of being employed by a civil master, with whom he intended to stay till the spring, at which time he intended to go to London, where he did not doubt of finding encouragement. — When I communicated to him my situation and design, he did not approve of my taking a passage by sea, by reason of the danger of a winter voyage, which is very hazardous along that coast, as well as the precariousness of the wind, which might possibly detain me a great while; to the no small detriment of my fortune: whereas, if I would venture by land, he would bear me company, carry my baggage all the way; and if we should be fatigued before we could perform the journey, it would be no hard matter for us to find on the road, either return-horses, or waggons, of which we might take the advantage for a trifling expence. — I was so ravished at this proposal, that I embraced him affectionately, and assured him he might command my purse to the last farthing; but he gave me to understand he had saved money sufficient to answer his own occasions, and that he had a

friend in London, who would soon introduce him into business, in that capital; and might possibly have it in his power to serve me also.

Having concerted the plan, and settled our affairs that night, we departed next morning by day-break, armed with a good cudgel each (my companion being charged with the furniture of us both, crammed into one knapsack;) and our money sewed between the lining and waistband of our breeches, except some loose silver for our immediate expence on the road. — We travelled all day at a round pace, but being ignorant of the proper stages, were benighted at a good distance from any inn, so that we were compelled to take up our lodging at a small hedge ale house, that stood on a bye-road, about half a mile from the highway: There we found a pedlar of our own country, in whose company we regaled ourselves with bacon and eggs, and a glass of good ale, before a comfortable fire, conversing all the while very sociably with the landlord and his daughter, an hale buxom lass, who entertained us with great good humour, and in whose affection I was vain enough to believe I had made some progress. About eight o'clock we were all three, at our own desire, shewn into an apartment, furnished with two beds, in one

of which Strap and I betook ourselves to rest, and the pedlar occupied the other, though not before he had prayed a considerable time *ex tempore*, searched into every corner of the room, and fastened the door on the inside with a strong iron screw, which he carried about with him for that use. — I slept very sound till midnight, when I was disturbed by a violent motion of the bed, which shook under me with a continual tremor. — Alarmed at this phenomenon, I jogged my companion, whom to my no small amazement, I found drenched in sweat, and quaking through every limb: he told me with a low faltering voice, that we were undone; for there was a bloody highwayman with loaded pistols in the next room; then bidding me make as little noise as possible, he directed me to a small chink in the board partition, through which I could see a thickset brawny fellow, with a fierce countenance, sitting at a table with our young landlady, having a bottle of ale, and a brace of pistols before him. I listened with great attention, and heard him say in a terrible tone; „d—n that son of a bitch, Smack, the coachman! — he has served me a fine trick, indeed! — but d——tion sieze me, if I don't make him repent

it: I'll teach the scoundrel to give intelligence to others, while he is under articles with me." — Our landlady endeavoured to appease this exasperated robber, by saying he might be mistaken in Smack, who, perhaps, kept no correspondence with the other gentleman that robbed his coach, — and, that if an accident had disappointed him to day, he might soon find opportunities enough to atone for his lost trouble. — „I'll tell thee what, my dear Bett (replied he) I never had, nor ever will, while my name is Rifle, have such a glorious booty as I missed to day. — Z—ds! there was 400 l. in cash, to recruit men for the king's service, besides the jewels, watches, swords and money belonging to the passengers; — had it been my fortune to have got clear off with so much treasure, I would have purchased a commission in the army, and made you an officer's lady, you jade, I would." — „Well, well, (cries Betty) we must trust to Providence for that; but did you find nothing worth taking, which escaped the other gentleman of the road!" — „Not much, faith, (said the lover) I gleaned a few things, — such as a pair of pops, silver mounted, (here they are) I took them loaded from the Captain who had the charge of the money, together with a gold watch

which he had concealed in his breeches. — I likewise found ten Portugal pieces in the shoes of a quacker, whom the spirit moved to revile me with great bitterness and devotion; but what I value myself mostly for, is this here purchase, a gold snuff box, my girl, with a picture on the inside of the lid: which I untied out of the tail of a pretty lady's smock." — Here, as the devil would have it, the pedlar snored so loud, that the highwayman, snatching his pistols, started up, crying, „Hell and d—n—n! I am betrayed, who's that in the next room?" Mrs. Betty told him, he need not be uneasy, they were only three poor wearied travellers, who missing the road, had taken up their lodging in the house, and were asleep long ago. — „Travellers! (says he,) spies, you b—ch! but no matter — I'll sent them all to hell in an instant." — He accordingly ran towards our door; when his sweetheart interposing, assured him there was only a couple of poor young Scotchmen, who were too raw and ignorant to give him the least cause of suspicion; and the third was a presbyterian pedlar of the same nation, who had often lodged in the house before. — This declaration satisfied the thief, who swore he was glad there was a pedlar, for he wanted some

linen — Then, in a jovial manner, he put about the glass, mingling his discourse to Betty, with caresses and familiarities that spoke him very happy in his amours. During that part of the conversation which regarded us, Strap had crept under the bed, where he lay in the agonies of fear; so that it was with great difficulty I persuaded him our danger was over, and prevailed on him to wake the pedlar, and inform him of what he had seen and heard. — The itinerant merchant no sooner felt somebody shaking him by the shoulder, than he started up, calling as loud as he could, — „Thieves, thieves! Lord have mercy on us.“ And Rifle, alarmed at this exclamation, jumped up, cocked one of his pistols, and turned towards the door, to kill the first man who should enter; for he verily believed himself beset; when his Dulcinea, after an immoderate fit of laughter, persuaded him, that the poor pedlar, dreaming of thieves, had only cried out in his sleep. — Meanwhile, my comrade had undeceived our fellowlodger, and informed him of his reason for disturbing him; upon which getting up softly, he peeped through the hole, and was so terrified with what he saw, that falling down on his bare knees, he put up a long petition to heaven, to deliver him from the hands of

that ruffian, and promised never to defraud a customer for the future of the value of a pin's point, provided he might be rescued from the present danger. — Whether or not the disburthening his conscience afforded him any ease, I know not; but he slipped into bed again, and lay very quiet until the robber and his mistress were asleep, and snored in concert; then, rising softly, he untied a rope that was round his pack, which, making fast to one end of it, he opened the window with as little noise as possible, and lowered the goods into the yard with great dexterity: then he moved gently to our bed-side, and bade us farewell, telling us, that as we ran no risk, we might take our rest with great confidence, and, in the morning, assure our landlord that we knew nothing of his escape: and, lastly, shaking us by the hands, and wishing us all manner of success, he let him drop from the window without any danger, for the ground was not above a yard from his feet as he hung on the outside. Although I did not think proper to accompany him in his flight, I was not at all free from apprehension, when I reflected on what might be the effect of the highwayman's disappointment; as he certainly intended to make free with the

pedlar's ware. Neither was my companion at more ease in his mind; but on the contrary, so possessed with the dreadful idea of Rifle, that he solicited me strongly to follow our countryman's example, and so elude the fatal resentment of that terrible adventurer, who would certainly wreak his vengeance on us, as accomplices of the pedlar's elopement. — But I represented to him the danger of giving Rifle cause to think we knew his profession, and suggested, that if ever he should meet us again on the road, he would look upon us as dangerous acquaintance, and find it his interest to put us out of the way. — I told him, withal, my confidence in Betty's good nature, in which he acquiesced; and during the remaining part of the night, we concerted a proper method of behaviour, to render us unsuspected in the morning.

It was no sooner day, than Betty, entering our chamber, and perceiving our window open, cried out, „Odds bobs! sure you Scotchmen must have hot constitutions to lie all night with the window open, in such cold weather.“ — I feigned to start out of sleep, and withdrawing the curtain, called „What's the matter?“ When she shewed me, I affected surprise, and said, „Bless me the

window was shut when we went to bed " —
 „I'll be hanged, said she, if Sawny Waddle,
 the pedlar, has not got up in a dream and
 done it, for I heard him very opstropulous
 in his sleep. — Sure I put a chamber-pot
 under his bed." — With these words she
 advanced to the bed in which he lay, and
 finding the sheets cold, exclaimed, „Good
 lack a daisy! the rogue is fled!" — „Fled,
 (cried I, with feigned amazement), God
 forbid! — Sure he has not robbed us." —
 Then springing up, I laid hold of my
 breeches, and emptied all my loose money
 into my hand; which having reckoned, I
 said, heaven be praised, our money is all
 safe: — Strap, look to the knapsack." —
 He did so, and found all was right —
 Upon which we asked with seeming concern,
 if he had stole nothing belonging to the house?
 — „No, no, replied she, he has stole nothing
 but his reckoning;" which, it seems, this
 pious pedlar had forgot to discharge, in the
 midst of his devotion. — Betty, after a
 moment's pause, withdrew, and immediately
 we could hear her waken Rifle, who no
 sooner heard of Waddle's flight, than he
 jumped out of bed and dressed, venting a
 thousand execrations, and vowing to murder
 the pedlar, if ever he set eyes on him again;

For, said he, the scoundrel has by this time raised the hue and cry against me," — Having dressed himself in a hurry, he mounted his horse, and for that time rid us of his company, and a thousand fears that were the consequence of it — While we were at breakfast, Betty endeavoured, by all the cunning she was mistress of, to learn whether or no we suspected our fellow lodger, whom we saw take horse; but as we were on our guard, we answered her by sly questions with a simplicity she could not distrust; when all of a sudden we heard the trampling of a horse's feet at the door. This noise alarmed Strap so much; whose imagination was wholly engrossed by the image of Rifle, that, with a countenance as pale as milk he cried — „O Lord! there's the highwayman returned!“ Our landlady staring at these words, said, „What highwayman, young man? — Do you think any highwaymen harbour here?“ — Though I was very much disconcerted at this piece of indiscretion in Strap, I had presence of mind enough to tell her we had met a horseman the day before, whom strap had foolishly supposed to be a highwayman, because he rode with pistols: and that he had been terrified at the sound of a horse's feet ever since. —

She forced a smile at the ignorance and timidity of my comrade; but I could perceive (not without great concern) that this account was not at all satisfactory to her.

CHAP. IX.

We proceed on our Journey — Are overtaken by an Highwayman, who fires at Strap, is prevented from shooting me by a company of Horsemen, who ride in pursuit of him. — Strap is put to Bed at an Inn — Adventures at that Inn.

After having paid our score, and taken leave of our hostess, who embraced me tenderly at parting, we proceeded on our journey, blessing ourselves we had come off so well. We had not walked above five miles, when we observed a man on horseback galloping after us, whom we in a short time recognized to be no other than this formidable hero who had already given us so much vexation — He stopped hard by me, and asked if I knew who he was? — My astonishment had disconcerted me so much, that I did not hear his question, which he repeated with a volley of oaths and threats; but I remained as mute as before. Strap, seeing

my discomposure, fell upon his knees in the mud, uttering, with a lamentable voice, these words: „For C—st's sake, have mercy upon us, Mr. Rifle, we know you very well.“ — „O, ho! (cried the thief) you do! But you never shall be evidence against me in this world, you dog!“ — So saying, he drew a pistol, and fired it at the unfortunate shaver, who fell flat upon the ground, without speaking one word. — My comrade's fate, and my own situation, rivetted me to the place where I stood, deprived of all sense and reflection; so that I did not make the least attempt either to run away, or deprecate the wrath of his barbarian, who snapped a second pistol at me; but before he had time to prime again, perceiving a company of horsemen coming up, he rode off, and left me standing motionless as a statue, in which posture I was found by those whose appearance had saved my life. This company consisted of three men in livery, well armed, with an officer, who (as I afterwards learned) was the person from whom Rifle had taken the pocket pistols the day before; and who, making known his misfortune to a nobleman he met on the road, assuring him, his non-resistance was altogether owing to his consideration for

the ladies in the coach, procured the assistance of his lordship's servants to go in quest of the plunderer. This holiday captain scampered up to me with great address, and asked, who fired the pistol which he had heard. As I had not yet recovered my reason, he, before I could answer, observed a body laying on the ground: at which sight his colour changed, and he pronounced with a faltering tongue, „Gentlemen, here's murder committed! Let us alight.“ — „No, no, said one of his followers, let us rather pursue the murderer. — Which way went he, young man?“ — By this time I had recollected myself so far as to tell them, that he could not be a quarter of a mile before; and to beg of one of them to assist me in conveying the corpse of my friend to the next house, in order to its being interred. — The captain, foreseeing that in case he should pursue, he must soon come to action, began to curb his horse, and gave him the spur at the same time, which treatment making the creature rear up and snort, he called out his horse was frightened, and would not proceed; at the same time wheeling him round and round, stroaking his neck, whistling and wheedling him, „Sirrah, Sirrah—gently, gently,“ etc. — „Z—ds! (cried one of

the servants) sure my lord's Sorrel is not resty!" — With these words he bestowed a lash on his buttock, and Sorrel distaining the rein, sprung forward with the captain, at a pace that would have soon brought him up with the robber, had not the girth (happily for him) given way, by which means he landed in the dirt; and two of his attendants continued their pursuit, without minding his situation. Meanwhile one of the three who remained at my desire, turning the body of Strap, in order to see the wound which had killed him, found him still warm, and breathing; upon which I immediately let him blood, and saw him, with inexpressible joy, recover; he having received no other wound than what his fear had inflicted. — Having raised him upon his legs, we walked together to an inn, about half a mile from the place, where Strap, who was not quite recovered, went to bed; and in a little time, the third servant returned, with the captain's horse and furniture, leading him to crawl after as well as he could. This gentleman of the sword, upon his arrival, complained grievously of the bruise occasioned by his fall; and on the recommendation of the servant, who warranted my ability, I was employed to bleed him, for which service he rewarded me with half a crown.

The time between this event and dinner I passed in observing a game at cards between two farmers, an exciseman, and a young fellow in a rusty gown and cassock, who, as I afterwards understood, was curate of a neighbouring parish. — It was easy to perceive that the match was not equal; and that the two farmers, who were partners, had to do with a couple of sharpers, who stript them of all their cash in a very short time. — But what surprised me very much was, to hear this clergyman reply to one of the countrymen, who seemed to suspect foul play, in these words: — D—n me, friend, d'ye question my honour?" — I did not at all wonder to find a cheat in canonicals, this being a character frequent in my own country; but I was scandalized at the indecency of this behaviour, which appeared in the oaths he swore, and the bawdy songs which he sung. At last to make amends, in some sort, for the damage he had done to the unwary boors, he pulled out a fiddle from the lining of his gown, and, promising to treat them at dinner, began to play most melodiously, singing in concert all the while. — This good humour of the parson inspired the company with so much glee, that the farmers soon forgot

their losses, and all present went to dancing in the yard. While we were agreeably amused in this manner, our musician spying a horseman riding towards the inn, stopt all of a sudden, crying out, „Gad so! gentlemen, I beg your pardon; there's our dog of a doctor coming into the inn.“—— He immediately concealed his instrument, and ran towards the gate, where he took hold of the vicar's bridle, and helped him off, enquiring very cordially into the state of his health. — This rosy son of the church (who might be about the age of fifty) having alighted, and entrusted the curate with his horse, stalked with great solemnity into the kitchen, where, sitting down by the fire, he called for a bottle of ale and a pipe; scarce deigning an answer to the submissive questions of those who enquired about the welfare of his family. — While he indulged himself in this state, amidst a profound silence, the curate approaching him with great reverence, asked if he would not be pleased to honour us with his company at dinner? To which interrogation he answered in the negative, saying he had been to visit squire Bumkin, who had drank himself into a high fever at the last assizes; and that he had, on leaving his own house, told Betty

h should dine at home. ——— Accordingly, when he had made an end of his bottle and pipe, he rose, and moved, with prelatical dignity, to the door, where his journeyman stood ready with his nag. ——— He had no sooner mounted, than the facetious curate coming into the kitchen, held forth in this manner: „There the old rascal goes, and the D—I go with him. — You see how the world wags, gentlemen. ——— By Gad, this rogue of a vicar does not deserve to live; — and yet he has two livings worth 400*l. per annum*, while poor I am fain to do all his drudgery, and ride twenty miles every Sunday to preach, for what? why, truly, for 20*l.* a year. — I scorn to boast of my own qualifications, but — comparisons are odious. I should be glad to know how this swagbellied Doctor deserves to be more at ease than me ——— He can loll in his elbow chair at home, indulge himself in the best of victuals and wine, and enjoy the conversation of Betty, his house-keeper. — You understand me, gentlemen. — Betty is the doctor's poor kinswoman, and a pretty girl she is: but no matter for that: — aye, and a dutiful girl to her parents, whom she visits regularly every year; though I must own, I could never learn in what country

they live. ——— „My service t'ye gentlemen.“ ——— By this time dinner being ready, I waked my companion, and we ate all together with great chearfulness. When our meal was ended, and every man's share of the reckoning adjusted, the curate went out on pretence of some necessary occasion, and, mounting his horse, left the two farmers to satisfy the host in the best manner they could ——— We were no sooner informed of this piece of finesse, than the exciseman, who had been silent hitherto, began to open with a malicious grin: „Aye, aye, this is an old trick of Shuffle: ——— I could not help smiling, when he talked of treating. ——— You must know this is a very curious fellow. ——— He picked up some scraps of learning while he served young lord Trifle at the university ——— But what he most excels in is pimping. No man knows his talents better than I; for I was *valet de chambre* to squire Tattle, an intimate companion of Shuffle's lord. ——— He got himself into a scrape, by pawning some of his lordship's cloaths, on which account he was turned away; but as he was acquainted with some particular circumstances of my lord's conduct, he did not care to exasperate him too much, and so made interest for his

receiving orders, and afterwards recommended him to the curacy which he now enjoys. — However, the fellow cannot be too much admired for his dexterity in making a comfortable livelihood, in spite of such a small allowance. — You hear he plays a good stick, and is really diverting company. — These qualifications make him agreeable, wherever he goes; — and as for playing at cards, there is not a man within three counties a match for him: — the truth is, he is a damnable cheat; and can shift a card with such address, that it is impossible to discover him.“ — Here he was interrupted by one of the farmers, who asked why he had not justice enough to acquaint them with these particulars before they engaged in play? — The exciseman replied, without any hesitation, that it was none of his business to intermeddle between man and man: besides, he did not know they were ignorant of Shuffle's character, which was notorious to the whole country. — This did not satisfy the other, who taxed him with abetting and assisting the curate's knavery, and insisted on having his share of the winnings returned; this demand the exciseman as positively refused, affirming, that whatsoever slights Shuffle might practise on other occasions, he

was very certain that he had play'd on the square with them, and would answer it before any bench in Christendom; so saying, he got up, and having paid his reckoning, sneaked off. The landlord thrusting his neck into the passage, to see if he was gone, shook his head, saying, Aye! Lord help us! if every sinner was to have his deserts. — Well, we victuallers must not disoblige the excisemen — But I know what. — If parson Shuffle and he were weighed together, a straw thrown into either scale would make the balance kick the beam: — but, masters, this is under the rose,” continued Boniface with a whisper.

CHAP. X.

The Highwayman is taken — We are detained as Evidence against him — Proceed to the next Village — He escapes — We arrive at another Inn, where we go to Bed — In the Night we are awaked by a dreadful Adventure — Next Night we lodge at the House of a Shool-master — Our Treatment there.

Strap and I were about to depart on our journey, when we preceived a croud on the road coming towards us, shouting and hallooing all the way. As it approached, we could

discern a man on horseback in the middle, with his hands tied behind him, whom we soon knew to be Rifle. This highwayman not being so well mounted as the two servants who went in pursuit of him, was soon overtaken, and after having discharged his pistols, made prisoner without any further opposition. They were carrying him in triumph, amidst the acclamations of the country people, to a justice of peace in a neighbouring village, but stopt at our inn to join their companion, and take refreshment. When Rifle was dismounted, and placed in the yard, within a circle of peasants, armed with pitchforks, I was amazed to see what a pitiful dejected fellow he now appeared, who had but a few hours before filled me with such terror and confusion. — My companion was so much encouraged by this alteration in his appearance, that going up to the thief, he presented his clenched fist to his nose, and declared he would either cudgel or box with the prisoner for a guinea, which he immediately produced, and began to strip — but was dissuaded from this adventure by me, who represented to him the folly of the undertaking, as Rifle was now in the hands of justice, which would, no doubt, give us all satisfaction enough. —

But what made me repent of our impertinent curiosity, was our being detained by the captors, as evidence against him, when we were just going to set forward. However, there was no remedy; we were obliged to comply; and accordingly joined in the cavalcade, which luckily took the same road that we had promised to follow — About the twilight, we arrived at the place of our destination; but as the justice was gone to visit a gentleman in the country, with whom (we understood) he would probably stay all night, the robber was confined in an empty garret three stories high, from which it seemed impossible for him to escape: this, nevertheless, was the case; for next morning, when they went up stairs, to bring him before the justice, the bird was flown, having got out at the window upon the roof, from whence he continued his rout along the top of the adjoining houses, and entered another garret window, where he skulked until the family were asleep, at which time he ventured down stairs, and let himself out by the street door, which was found open. This event was a great disappointment to those that apprehended him, who were flushed with hopes of the reward; but gave me great joy, as I was permitted

now to continue my journey without any further molestation — Resolving to make up for the small progress we had hitherto made, we this day travelled with great vigour, and before night reached a market-town, twenty miles from the place from whence we set out in the morning, without meeting any adventure worth notice — Here having taken up our lodging at an inn, I found myself so fatigued, that I began to despair of performing our journey on foot, and desired Strap to enquire if there was any waggon, return-horses, or other cheap carriage in this place, to depart for London the next day. — — He was informed, that the waggon from Newcastle to London had halted here two nights ago; and that it would be an easy matter to overtake it, if not the next day, at farthest the day after the next. This piece of news gave us some satisfaction; and, after having made a hearty supper, on hashed mutton, we were shewn to our room, which contained two beds, the one allotted for us, and the other for a very honest gentleman, who, we were told, was then drinking below. Though we could have very well dispensed with his company, we were glad to submit to this disposition, as there was not another bed

empty in the house; and accordingly went to rest, after having secured our baggage under the bolster. About two or three o'clock in the morning, I was waked out of a very profound sleep, by a dreadful noise in the chamber, which did not fail to throw me into an agony of consternation, when I heard these words pronounced with a terrible voice: — „Blood and wounds! run the halbert into the guts of him that's next you, and I'll blow the other's brains out presently.“ — This dreadful salutation had no sooner reached the ears of Strap, than, starting out of bed, he ran against somebody in the dark, and overturned him in an instant; at the same time bawling out, „Fire! murder! fire!“ a cry which in a moment alarmed the whole house, and filled our chamber with a crowd of naked people. — When lights were brought, the occasion of all this disturbance soon appeared; which was no other than our fellow lodger, whom we found lying on the floor scratching his head, with a look testifying the utmost astonishment at the concourse of apparitions that surrounded him.

This honest gentleman was, it seems, a recruiting serjeant; who, having enlisted

two country fellows over night, dreamed they had mutinied, and threatened to murder him and the drummer who was along with him. This made such an impression on his imagination, that he got up in his sleep, and expressed himself as above. When our apprehension of danger vanished, the company beheld one another with great surprise and mirth; but what attracted the notice of every one was, our landlady with nothing on her but her shift and a large pair of buckskin breeches with the backside before, which she had slipt on in the hurry, and her husband with her petticoat about his shoulders: one had wrapt himself in a blanket, another was covered with a sheet: and the drummer, who had given his only shirt to be washed, appeared in *cuerpo*, with the bolster rolled about his middle. — When this affair was discussed, every body retired to his own apartment, the Serjeant slipt into bed, and my companion and I slept without any further disturbance till morning, when we got up, went to breakfast, paid our reckoning, and set forward, in expectation of overtaking the waggon: in which hope, however, we were disappointed for that day. As we exerted ourselves more than usual, I found myself quite spent with fatigue, when we

entered a small village in the twilight. We enquired for a public house, and were directed to one of a very sorry appearance. At our entrance the landlord, who seemed to be a venerable old man, with long grey hair, rose from a table placed by a large fire, in a very neat paved kitchen, and, with a chearful countenance, accosted us in these words: — „*Salvete, Pueri, ingredi-mini.*“ — I was not a little pleased to hear our host speak Latin, because I was in hopes of recommending myself to him by my knowledge in that language; I therefore answered without hesitation — „*Dissolve „frigus, ligna super foco — large reponens.*“ — I had no sooner pronounced these words than the old gentleman, running towards me, shook me by the hand, crying, „*Fili, „me delectissime! unde venis? — a superis ni „fallor!*“ — In short, finding we were both read in the classics, he did not know how to testify his regard enough, but ordered his daughter, a jolly rosycheeked damsel, who was his sole domestic, to bring us a bottle of his *quadrimum* — repeating, from Horace, at the same time — „*Deprome quadrimum sabina O Thaliarche, merum dio- „ta.*“ — This *quadrimum* was excellent ale of his own brewing, of which he told us he

had always an *amphora*, four years old, for the use of himself and friends. — In the course of our conversation, which was interlarded with scraps of Latin, we understood that this facetious person was a schoolmaster, whose income being small, he was fain to keep a glass of good liquor for the entertainment of passengers, by which he made a shift to make the two ends of the year meet. — „I am this day, said he, the happiest old fellow in his Majesty's dominions. — My wife, rest her soul, is in heaven. My daughter is to be married next week; — but the two chief pleasures of my life are these (pointing to the bottle and a large edition of Horace that lay on the table.) I am old, 'tis true, — what then? the more reason I should enjoy the small share of life that remains, as my friend Flaccus advises: — „*Tu ne quaesieris* „(*scire nefas*) *quem mihi, quem tibi finem dii* „*dederint.* — *Carpe diem, quam minimum* „*credito posteri.*“ — As he was very inquisitive about our affairs, we made no scruple of acquainting him with our situation; which when he had learned, he enriched us with advices how to behave in the world, telling us that he was no stranger to the deceits of mankind. — In the mean time, he ordered his daughter to lay a fowl to the fire for sup-

per, for he was resolved this night to regale his friends — *permittens divis caetera*. — While our entertainment was preparing, our host recounted the adventures of his own life; which, as they contain nothing remarkable, I forbear to rehearse. When we had fared sumptuously, and drank several bottles of his *quadrimum*, I expressed a desire of going to rest, which was with some difficulty complied with, after that he informed us, that we should overtake the waggon by noon the next day; and that there was room enough in it for half a dozen, for there were only four passengers as yet in that convenience. — Before my comrade and I fell asleep, we had some conversation about the good humour of our landlord, which gave Strap such an idea of his benevolence, that he positively believed we should pay nothing for our lodging and entertainment. — “Don’t you observe, (said he) that he has conceived a particular affection for us, — nay, even treated us at supper with extraordinary fare, which, to be sure, we should not of ourselves have called for?” — I was partly of Strap’s opinion; but the experience I had of the world made me suspend my belief till the morning; when, getting up by times, we breakfasted with our host and

his daughter on hasty pudding and ale, and desired to know what we had to pay — „Biddy will let you know, Gentlemen, (said he) for I never mind these matters. — Money matters are beneath the concern of one who lives upon the Horatian plan. — *Crescentem sequitur cura pecuniam.*“ Meanwhile Biddy, having consulted a slate that hung in the corner, told us our reckoning came to 8s. 7d. — „Eight shillings and sevenpence (cried Strap) 'tis impossible — you must be mistaken, young woman!“ — „Reckon again, child, (said her father, very deliberately) perhaps you have miscounted.“ — „No indeed, Father, (she replied) I know my business better.“ — I could contain my indignation no longer, but said it was an unconscionable bill, and demanded to know the particulars; upon which the old man got up muttering, „Aye, aye, let us see the particulars; that's but reasonable.“ And taking pen, ink, and paper, wrote the following

Items:

	s.	d.
To bread and beer	0	6
To a fowl and sausages	2	6
To four bottles of <i>quadrim</i>	2	0
To fire and tobacco	0	7
To lodging	2	0
To breakfast	1	0
	8	7

As he had not the appearance of a common publican, and had raised a sort of veneration in me by his demeanor the preceding night, it was not in my power to upbraid him as he deserved, therefore I contented myself with saying, I was sure he did not learn to be an extortioner from Horace. He answered, I was but a young man, and did not know the world, or I would not tax him with extortion, whose only aim was to live *contentus parvo*, and keep off *importuna pauperies* — My fellow traveller could not so easily put up with this imposition; but swore he should either take one third of the money, or go without. — While we were engaged in this dispute I perceived the daughter to go out, and conjecturing the occasion, immediately paid the exorbitant demand, which was no sooner done than Biddy returned with two stout fellows, who came in on pretence of taking their morning draught, but in reality to frighten us into compliance. Just as we departed, Strap, who was half distracted on account of this piece of expence, went up to the school-master, and, grinning in his face, pronounced with great emphasis; „*Semper avarus eget*,“ — To which the pedant

replied with a malicious smile; „*Animum rege,*
„*qui, nisi paret, imperat.*“

CHAP. XI.

We descry the Waggon — Get into it — Arrive at an Inn — Our Fellow Travellers described — A Mistake is committed by Strap, and produces strange Things.

We travelled half a mile without exchanging one word; my thoughts being engrossed by the knavery of the world, to which I must be daily exposed; and the contemplation of my finances, which began sensibly to diminish. — At length Strap, who could hold no longer, addressed me thus: — „Well, fools and their money are soon parted. — If my advice had been taken, that old skin-flint should have been damned before he had got more than the third of his demand. — ’Tis a sure sign you came easily by your money, when you squander it away in this manner — Aye, God help you, how many brisly beards must I have mowed before I earned four shillings and three pence half-penny, which is all thrown to the dogs! — How many days have I sat weaving hair, till my toes were numbed by the cold, my

fingers cramped, and my nose as blue as the sign of the perriwig that hung over the door! What the devil was you afraid of? I would have engaged to box with any one of those fellows that came in, for a guinea. — I'm sure I have beat stouter men than either of them" — And indeed my companion would have fought any body when his life was in no danger; but he had a mortal aversion to fire-arms, and all instruments of death. In order to appease him, I assured him, no part of this extraordinary expence should fall upon his shoulders; at which declaration he was affronted, and told me, he would have me to know, that although he was a poor barber's boy, he had a soul to spend his money with the best 'squire in the land. Having walked all day at a great pace without halting for refreshment, we descried, towards the evening, to our inexpressible joy, the waggon, about a quarter of a mile before us; and by that time we reached it, we were both of us so weary that I verily believe it would have been impracticable for us to have walked one mile farther. — We therefore bargained with the driver, whose name was Joey, to give us a cast to the next stage for a shilling; at which place we should meet the master of the waggon,

with whom we might agree for the rest of the journey.

Accordingly the convenience stopt, and Joey having placed the ladder, Strap (being loaded with our baggage) mounted first; but, just as he was getting in, a tremendous voice assailed his ears in these words:— „God's fury! there shall no passengers come here.“ — The poor shaver was so disconcerted at this exclamation, which both he and I imagined proceeded from the mouth of a giant, that he descended with great velocity, and a countenance as white as paper. — Joey perceiving our astonishment, called, with an arch sneer, „Waunds, Coptain, whay woan't you sooffer the poor waggoner to meak a penny? — Coom, coom, young mon, get oop, get oop — never mind the Coptain! I'se not afeard of the Coptain.“ — This was not encouragement sufficient to Strap, who could not be prevailed upon to venture up again; upon which I attempted, though not without a quaking heart, when I heard the same voice muttering like distant thunder, „Hell and the devil confound me if I don't make you smart for this!“ However I crept in, and by accident got an empty place in the straw, which I immediately took possession of, without

being able to discern the faces of my fellow-travellers in the dark. — Strap following with the knapsack on his back, chanced to take the other side, and by a jolt of the carriage, pitched directly upon the stomach of the Captain, who bellowed out in a most dreadful manner, „Blood and thunder where's my sword?“ At these words my frightened comrade started up, and at one spring bounced against me with such force that I thought he was the supposed son of Anak, who intended to press me to death. — In the mean time a female voice cried, „Bless me what's the matter, my dear?“ — „The matter (replied the Captain) damn my blood my guts are squeezed into a pancake by that Scotchman's hump.“

Strap, trembling all the while at my back, asked him pardon, and laid the whole blame of what had happened upon the jolting of the waggon; and the woman who spoke before went on: „Aye, aye, my dear, it is our own fault, we may thank ourselves for all the inconveniencies we met with — I thank God, I never travelled so before. — I'm sure if my Lady or Sir John was to know where we are, they would not sleep this night for vexation. — I wish to God we had wrote for the chariot: — I know

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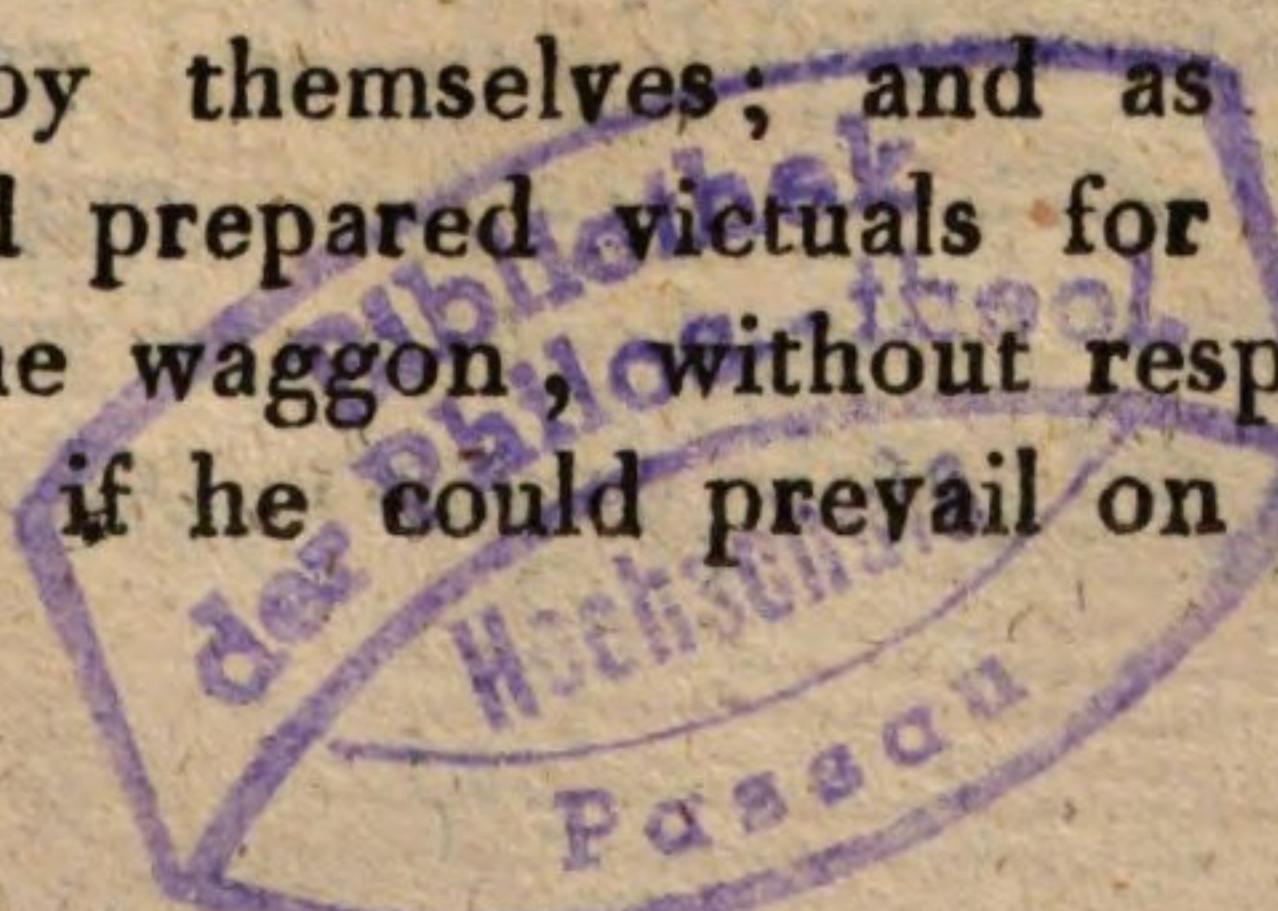
we shall never be forgiven." — „Come, come, my dear, (replied the Captain) it don't signify fretting now — we shall laugh it over as a frolick. — I hope you will not suffer in your health. — I shall make my Lord very merry with our adventures in the *Diligence*." This discourse gave me such a high notion of the Captain and his lady, that I durst not venture to join in the conversation; but immediately after another female voice began: „Some people give themselves a great many needless airs — better folks than any here have travelled in waggons before now — Some of us have rode in coaches and chariots with three footmen behind them, without making so much fuss about it — What then, we are all upon a footing; therefore let's all be sociable and merry. — What do you say, Isaac? Is not this a good motion, you doating rogue? — Speak, you old *cent. per cent.* fornicator! — What desperate debts are you thinking of? — What mortgage are you planning? — Well, Isaac, positively you shall never gain my favour till you turn over a new leaf, grow honest, and live like a Gentleman. — In the mean time give me a kiss, you old fumbler." — These words, accompanied with a hearty smack,

enlivened the person to whom they were addressed to such a degree, that he cried in a transport, though with a faltering voice, „Ah, you wanton baggage — upon my credit, you are a waggish girl, he, he, he.“ — This laugh introduced a fit of coughing, which almost suffocated the poor usurer (such we afterwards found was the profession of this our fellow traveller.) About this time I fell asleep, and enjoyed a comfortable nap till such time as we arrived at the inn where we put up. Here, having alighted from the waggon, I had an opportunity of viewing the passengers in order as they entered. The first who appeared was a brisk airy girl, about twenty years old, with a silver laced hat on her head, instead of a cap, a blue stuff riding suit, trimmed with silver, very much tarnished, and a whip in her hand. After her came limping an old man, with a worsted night-cap, buttoned under his chin, and a broad brimmed hat slouched over it, an old rusty blue cloak tied about his neck, under which appeared a brown surtout that covered a threadbare coat and waistcoat, and, as we afterwards discerned, a dirty flannel jacket. — His eyes were hollow, bleared, and gummy; his face was shrivelled into a thousand

wrinkles, his gums were destitute of teeth, his nose sharp and drooping, his chin pecked and prominent, so that when he mumped or spoke they approached one another like a pair of nut-crackers; he supported himself on an ivory headed cane, and his whole figure was a just emblem of winter, famine and avarice. But how was I surprised when I beheld the formidable Captain in the shape of a little thin creature, about the age of forty, with a long withered visage, very much resembling that of a baboon, through the upper part of which two little grey eyes peeped. He wore his own hair in a queue that reached to his rump, which immoderate length, I suppose, was the occasion of a baldness that appeared on the crown of his head, when he deigned to take off his hat, which was very much of the size and cock of Pistol's.

Having laid aside his great coat, I could not help admiring the extraordinary make of this man of war: He was about five feet and three inches high, sixteen inches of which went to his face and long scraggy neck; his thighs were about six inches in length, his legs, resembling spindles or drum-sticks, two feet and a half, and his body, which put me in mind of extension

without substance; engrossed the remainder; — so that on the whole, he appeared like a spider or grass-hopper erect — and was almost a *vox, et preterea nihil*. — His dress consisted of a frock, of what is called bear skin, the skirts of which were about half a foot long; an hussar waistcoat, reaching half way down his thighs; scarlet breeches; worsted stockings, rolled up almost to his groin; and shoes with wooden heels, at least two inches high; he carried a sword very near as long as himself in one hand, and with the other conducted his lady, who seemed to be a woman of his own age, and still retained some remains of an agreeable person; but so ridiculously affected, that, had I not been a novice in the world, I might have easily perceived in her the deplorable vanity, and second-hand airs of a lady's woman. We were all assembled in the kitchen, when Captain Weazel (for that was his name) desired a room with a fire for himself and spouse, and told the landlord, they would sup by themselves. The inn-keeper replied, that he could not afford them a room by themselves; and as for supping, he had prepared victuals for the passengers in the waggon, without respect of persons; but if he could prevail on the



rest to let him have his choice in a separate manner, he should be very well pleased. This was no sooner said, than all of us declared against the proposal, and Miss Jenny (our other female passenger) observed, that if Captain Weazel and his lady had a mind to sup by themselves, they might wait until we should have done. — At this hint the Captain put on a martial frown, and looked very big, without speaking; while his yoke-fellow, with a disdainful toss of her nose, muttered something about creature; — which Miss Jenny over-hearing, stept up to her, saying, „None of your names; good Mrs. Abigail: — creature quotha — I'll assure you — No such creature as you neither — no ten pound sneaker — no quality coupler.“ — Here the Captain interposed, with a „Damme, Madam, what do you mean by that?“ — „Damn you, Sir; who are you? (replied Miss Jenny) Who made you a Captain, you pitiful, trencher-scraping pimping curler! 'Sdeath! the army is come to a fine pass, when such fellows as you get commissions — What, I suppose you think I don't know you! — Egad you and your helpmade are well met — a cast-off mistress, and a bald *valet the chambre* are well yoked together.“ — „Blood and wounds (cried Weazel) d'ye

question the honour of my wife, Madam! — Hell and damnation! No man in England durst say so much! I would flea him, carbonado him! — Fury and destruction I would have his liver for my supper.“ — So saying, he drew his sword, and flourished with it, to the great terror of Strap; while Miss Jenny, snapping her fingers, told him, she did not value his resentment a louse. — In the midst of this quarrel the master of the waggon alighted, who, understanding the cause of the disturbance, and fearing the Captain and his lady would take umbrage, and leave his carriage, was at great pains to have every thing made up, which he at last accomplished, and we sat down to supper all together. — About bed-time, we were shewn to our apartments: The old Usurer, Strap, and I, to one room; the Captain, his wife, and Miss Jenny to another; About midnight, my companion's bowels being disordered, he got up in order to go backward; but, in his return, mistaking one door for another, entered Weazel's chamber, and without any hesitation went to bed to his wife, who was fast asleep; the Captain being at another end of the room, groping for some empty vessel, in lieu of his own champer-pot, which was

leaky: As he did not perceive Strap coming in, he went towards his own bed, after having found a convenience; but no sooner did he feel a rough head covered with a cotton night-cap, than it came into his mind, that he had mistaken Miss Jenny's bed instead of his own, and that the head he felt was that of some gallant, with whom she had made an assignation. Full of this conjecture, and scandalized at the prostitution of his apartment, he snatched up the vessel he had just before filled, and emptied it at once on the astonished barber, and his own wife: who, waking at that instant, broke forth into lamentable cries, which not only alarmed the husband beyond measure, but frightened poor Strap almost out of his senses; for he verily believed himself bewitched; especially when the incensed Captain seized him by the throat, with a volley of oaths, asking him how he durst have the presumption to attempt the chastity of his wife. — Poor Strap was so amazed and confounded, that he could say nothing, but, — „I take God to witness she's a virgin for me.“ — Mrs. Weazel, enraged to find herself in such a pickle, through the precipitation of her husband, arose in her shift, and with the heel of her shoe, [which she

found by the bed-side, belaboured the Captain's bald pate, till he roared, „Murder.“ — „I'll teach you to empty your stink pot on me, cried she, you pitiful hop o' my thumb coxcomb, What! I warrant you are jealeous, you man of lath. Was it for this I condescended to take you to my bed, you poor withered sapless twig?“ — The noise, occasioned by this adventure, had brought the master of the waggon, and me to the door, where we overheard all that passed with great satisfaction. In the mean time we were alarmed with the cry of „Rape! Murder! Rape!“ which Miss Jenny pronounced with great vociferation. — „O! you vile, abominable old villain, said she, would you rob me of my virtue — But I'll be revenged of you, you old goat! I will! — Help! for heaven's sake! help! — I shall be ravished! ruined! help! — Some servants of the inn, hearing this cry, came running up stairs with lights, and such weapons as chance afforded; when we beheld a very diverting scene — In one corner stood the poor captain shivering in his shirt, which was all torn to rags; with a woeful visage scratched all over, with his wife; who had by this time wrapped the counterpane about her, and

sat sobbing on the side of her bed. — In the other end lay the old usurer sprawling on Miss Jenny's bed with his flannel jacket over his shirt, and his tawny meagre limbs exposed to the air; while she held him fast by his two ears, and loaded him with execrations. — When we asked what was the matter, she affected to weep, told us that she was afraid that wicked rogue had ruined her in her sleep, and bade us take notice of what we saw, for she intended to make use of our evidence against him. The poor wretch looked like one more dead than alive, and begged to be released, a favour which he had no sooner obtained, than he protested she was no woman, but a devil incarnate — that she had first seduced his flesh to rebel and then betrayed him. — Yes, cockatrice (continued he) you know you laid this snare for me — but you shan't succeed — for I will hang myself before you get a farthing of me.“ — So saying, he crawled to his bed, groaning all the way. — — We then advanced to the Captain, who told us, “Gentlemen, here has been a damn'd mistake; but I'll be revenged on him who was the occasion of it. — That Scotchman who carries the knapsack shall not breathe this vital air another day, if my

name be Weazel. — My dear, I ask you ten thousand pardons; you are sensible I could mean no harm to you.“ — „I know not what you meant (replied she, sighing,) but I know I have got enough to send me to my grave.“ — At length they were reconciled. The wife was complimented with a share of Miss Jenny's bed (her own being overflowed) and the master of the waggon invited Weazel to sleep the remaining part of the night with him. I retired to mine, where I found Strap mortally afraid, having stole away in the dark, while the Captain and his lady were at logger-heads.

CHAP. XII.

Captain Weazel challenges Strap, who declines the Combat — An affair between the Captain and me — The Usurer is fain to give Miss Jenny five Guineas for a Release — We are in danger of losing a Meal — The Behaviour of Weazel, Jenny, and Joey, on that occasion — An Account of Captain Weazel and his Lady — The Captain's Courage tried — Isaac's Mirth at the Captain's expence.

Next morning I agreed to give the master of the waggon ten shillings for my

passage to London, provided Strap should be allowed to take my place when I should be disposed to walk. — At the same time I desired him to appease the incensed Captain, who had entered the kitchen with a drawn sword in his hand, and threatened, with many oaths, to sacrifice the villain, who attempted to violate his bed; but it was to no purpose for the master to explain the mistake, and assure him of the poor lad's innocence, who stood trembling behind me all the while: the more submission there appeared in Strap, the more implacable seemed the resentment of Weazel, who swore he must fight him, or he would instantly put him to death. I was extremely provoked at this insolence, and told him it could not be supposed that a poor barber lad would engage a man of the sword at his own weapon; but I was persuaded he would wrestle or box with him. To which proposal Strap immediately gave assent, by saying he would box with him for a guinea. — Weazel replied, with a look of disdain, that it was beneath any gentleman of his character to fight like a porter, or even to put himself on a footing, in any respect, with such a fellow as Strap. „Odds boddikins! (cries Joey) sure, Coptain, you would not commit mooder! Here's a poor lad that is

willing to make atonement for his offence; and an than woan't satifie yaw, offers to fight yau fairly. — And yaw woan't box, I dare say, he will coodgel with yaw. — Woan't yaw my lad?" — Strap, after some hesitation, answered, „Ye, — yes, I'll cudgel with him.“ But this expedient being also rejected by the captain, I began to smell his character, and, tipping Strap the wink, told the company that I had always heard it said, the person who receives a challenge should have the choice of the weapons; this, therefore, being the rule in point of honour, I would venture to promise on the head of my companion, that he would even fight captain Weazel at sharps; but it should be with such sharps as Strap was best acquainted with, namely razors. — At my mentioning razors, I could perceive the captain's colour change, while Strap, pulling me by the sleeve, wispered with great eagerness; „No, no; not for the love of God, don't make any such bargain.“ At length, Weazel, recovering himself, turned towards me, and with a furious countenance, asked, „Who the devil are you? — Will you fight me?“ With these words, putting himself in a posture, I was grievously alarmed at seeing the point of a sword within half a foot of

my breast; and, springing to one side, snatched up a spit which stood in the chimney corner, with which I kept my formidable adversary at bay, who made a great many half lunges, skipping backward at every push, till at last I pinned him up in a corner, to the no small diversion of the company. While he was in this situation his wife entered; and, seeing her husband in these dangerous circumstances, uttered a dreadful scream: In this emergency Weazel demanded a cessation, which was immediately granted; and at last was contented with the submission of Strap, who, falling on his knees before him, protested the innocence of his intention, and asked pardon for the mistake he had committed. This affair being ended without bloodshed, we went to breakfast, but missed two of our company, namely, Miss Jenny and the usurer. As for the first, Mrs. Weazel informed us, that she had kept her awake all night with her groans, and that when she rose in the morning, Miss Jenny was so much indisposed, that she could not proceed on her journey. At that instand a message came from her to the master of the waggon, who immediately went into her chamber, followed by us all. She told him, in a lamentable tone, that

she was afraid of a miscarriage, owing to the fright she received last night, from the brutality of Isaac, and, as the event was uncertain, desired the usurer might be detained to answer for the consequence. Accordingly this ancient Tarquin was found in the waggon, whither he had retired to avoid the shame of last night's disgrace, and brought by force into her presence. He no sooner appeared, that she began to weep and to sigh most piteously, and told us, if she died, she should leave her blood upon the head of that ravisher. Poor Isaac turned up his eyes and hands to heaven, prayed that God would deliver him from the machinations of that Jezabel; and assured us, with tears in his eyes, that his being found in bed with her was the result of her own invitation. The waggoner, understanding the case, advised Isaac to make it up, by giving her a sum of money: to which advice he replied with great vehemence, „A sum of money! — a halter for the cock-atrice!“ — „O! 'tis very well, (said Miss Jenny): I see it is in vain to attempt that flinty heart of his by fair means. — Joey, be so good as to go to the Justice, and tell him there is a sick person here, who wants to see him on affair of consequence.“ — At the name of the

Justice, Isaac trembled, and, bidding Joey say, asked, with a quavering voice, what she would have? She told him, that, as he not perpetrated his wicked purpose, she would be satisfied with a small matter. — And though the damage she might sustain in her health might be irreparable, she would give him a release for an hundred guineas.“ — „An hundred guineas? (cried he in an ecstasy) an hundred furies! — Where should a poor old wretch like me have an hundred guineas! If I had so much money do you think I should be found travelling in a waggon, at this season of the year?“ — „Come, come, (replied Jenny) none of your miserly artifice here. — You think I don't know Isaac Rapine, the money-broker in the Minories. — Ah! you old rogue many a pawn have you had of me and my acquaintance, which was never redeemed.“ — Isaac finding it was in vain to disguise himself, offered twenty shillings for a discharge, which she absolutely refused under fifty pounds: at last, however, she was brought down to five, which he paid, with great reluctance, rather than he prosecuted for a rape. After which accommodation the sick person made shift to get into the waggon, and we set forwards in great

tranquillity, Strap being accommodated with Joey's horse, the driver himself choosing to walk. — This morning and forenoon we were entertained with an account of the valour of captain Weazel, who told us he had once knocked down a soldier that made game of him: tweaked a drawer by the nose, who found; fault with his picking his teeth with a fork, at another time; and that he had, moreover, challenged a cheesemonger, who had the presumption to be his rival: for the truth of which exploits he appealed to his wife. — She confirmed whatever he said; and observed, „the last affair happened that very day on which I received a love letter from 'Squire Gobble: and don't you remember my dear, I was prodigiously sick that very night with eating ortolans, when my lord Diddle took notice of my complexion being altered, and my lady was so alarmed, that she had well nigh fainted.“ — „Yes, my dear, (replied the captain) you know my lord said to me with a sneer,“ — Billy, Mrs. Weazel is certainly breeding“ — And I answered cavalierly, „my Lord, I wish I could return the compliment.“ — Upon which the whole company broke out into an immoderate fit of laughter; and my lord, who loves a repartee dearly, came round and

bussed me." — We travelled in this manner five days without interruption, or meeting any thing worth notice: Miss Jenny (who soon recovered her spirits) entertaining us every day with diverting songs, of which she could sing a great number; and rallying her old gallant, who, notwithstanding, would never be reconciled to her. — On the sixth day, while we were about to sit down to dinner, the innkeeper came and told us, that three gentlemen, just arrived, had ordered the victuals to be carried to their apartment, although he had informed them that they were bespoke by the passengers in the waggon. To which information they had replied, „The passengers in the waggon might be damn'd, — their betters must be served before them — they supposed it would be no hardship on such travellers to dine upon bread and cheese for one day.“ — This was a terrible disappointment to us all; and we laid our heads together how to remedy it; when Miss Jenny observed that captain Weazel, being by profession a soldier, ought in this case to protect and prevent us from being insulted. But the captain excused himself, saying, he would not for all the world be known to have travelled in a waggon: swearing at the same time, that could

he appear with honour, they should eat his sword sooner than his provision. — Upon this declaration, Miss Jenny, snatching his weapon, drew it, and ran immediately into the kitchen, where she threatened to put the cook to death if he did not send the victuals into our chamber immediately. — The noise she made brought the three strangers down, one of whom no sooner perceived her, than he cried, Ha! Jenny Ramper! what the devil brought thee hither? — „My dear Jack Rattle! (replied she) running into his arms, is it you? — Then Weazel may go to hell for a dinner — I shall dine with you.“ They consented to this proposal with a great deal of joy; and we were on the point of being reduced to a very uncomfortable meal, when Joey, understanding the whole affair, entered the kitchen with a pitchfork in his hand, and swore he would be the death of any man who should pretend to seize the victuals prepared for the waggon. This menace had liked to have produced fatal consequences; the three strangers drawing their swords, and being joined by their servants, and we ranging ourselves on the side of Joey; when the landlord interposing, offered to part with his own dinner to keep the peace, which was accepted by the strangers; and we sat down at table, without any further molest-

ation. In the afternoon, I chose to walk along with Joey, and Strap took my place. Having entered into a conversation with this driver, I soon found him to be a merry, facetious, good-natured fellow, and withal very arch: He informed me, that Miss Jenny was a common girl upon the town, who falling into company with a recruiting officer, he carried her down in the stage-coach from London to Newcastle, where he had been arrested for debt, and was now in prison: upon which she was fain to return to her former way of life by this conveyance. He told me likewise, that one of the gentlemen's servants, whom we left at the inn, having accidentally seen Weazel, immediately knew him, and acquainted Joey with some particulars of his character. That he had served my lord Frizzle in quality of a *valet de Chambre* many years; while he lived separate from his lady; but upon their reconciliation, she expressly insisted upon Weazel's being turned off, as well as the woman he kept: when his lordship, to get rid of them both with a good grace, proposed that he should marry his mistress, and he would procure a commission for him in the army: This expedient was agreed to, and Weazel is now, by his lordships interest,

ensign in ——'s regiment. I found he and I had the same sentiments with regard to Weazel's courage, which we resolved to put to the trial, by alarming the passengers with the cry of „an highwayman!“ as soon as an horseman should appear. This cheme we put in practice towards the dusk, when we descried a man on horseback approaching us. Joey had no sooner intimated to the people in the waggon, that he was afraid he should be robbed, than a general consternation arose: Strap jumped out of the waggon, and hid himself behind an hedge. The usurer put forth ejaculations, and made a rustling among the straw, which made us conjecture he had hid something under it. Mrs. Weazel, wringing her hands, uttered lamentable cries; and the captain, to our great amazement, began to snore; but this artifice did not succeed; for Miss Jenny, shaking him by the shoulder, bawl'd out, „'Sdeath Captain! is this a time to snore, when we are going to be robbed? — Get up for shame, and behave like a soldier and a man of honor.“ — Weazel pretended to be in a great passion for being disturbed, and swore he would have his nap out if all the highwayman in England surrounded him. —D—n my blood! what are you afraid of?“

continued he, at the same time trembling with such agitation, that the whole carriage shook. This singular piece of behaviour incensed Miss Ramper so much, that she cried, „D—n your pitiful soul, you are as arrant a poltroon as ever was drummed out of a regiment. — Stop the waggon, Joey, let me go out, and by G—d, if I have rhetoric enough, the thief shall not only take your purse, but your skin also.“ — So saying she leaped out with great agility. By this time the horseman came up with us, and happened to be a gentleman's servant well known to Joey, who communicated the scheme, and desired him to carry it on a little further, by going up to the waggon, and questioning those within. The stranger consenting for the sake of diversion, approached it, and in a terrible tone demanded, „who have we got here?“ — Isaac replied, with a lamentable voice, „here's a poor miserable sinner, who has got a small family to maintain, and nothing in the world wherewithal, but these fifteen shillings, which if you rob me of, we must all starve together.“ „Who's that sobbing in the other corner?“ — said the supposed highwayman. „A poor unfortunate woman, (answered Mrs. Weazel) upon whom I beg you, for

Christ's sake, to have compassion." — „Are you maid or wife?" said he. „Wife, to my sorrow," cried she — „Who, or where is your husband?" continued he — „My husband (replied Mrs. Weazel) is an officer in the army, and was left sick at the last inn where we dined." — „You must be mistaken, Madam, (said he) for I myself saw him get into the waggon this afternoon. — But pray what smell is that? Sure your lap-dog has befouled himself; let me catch hold of the nasty cur, I'll teach him better manners." — Here he laid hold of one of Weazel's legs, and pulled him out from under his wife's petticoats, where he had concealed himself. The poor trembling captain being detected in his inglorious situation, rubbed his eyes, and affecting to wake out of sleep, cried, „What's the matter? — What's the matter?" — „The matter is not much, (answered the horseman) I only called in to enquire after your health, and so adieu, most noble captain." — So saying, he clapped spurs to his horse, and was out of sight in a moment. It was some time before Weazel could recollect himself; but at length re-assuming the big look, he said, „Damn the fellow! why did he ride away, before I had time to ask him how

his lord and lady did? — Don't you remember Tom, my dear?" addressing himself to his wife. — „Yes, (replied she) I think I do remember something of the fellow, — but you know I seldom converse with people of his station.“ — „Hey dey! (cried Joey) do yau knaw the young mon, coptain?“ — „Know him, (said Weazel) many a time has he filled a glafs of Burgundy for me at my lord Trippet's table,“ — „And what may his neame be, coptain?“ said Joey — „His name! — his name, (replied Weazel) is Tom Rinser.“ — „Waunds (cried Joey) a has changed his own neame then! for I'se lay any wager he was christened John Trotter.“ — This observation raised a laugh against the captain, who seemed very much disconcerted; when Isaac broke silence, and said, „It was no matter who or what he was, since he has not proved the robber we suspected; and we ought to blefs God for our narrow escape.“ — „Blefs God, (said Weazel) blefs the devil! for what? had he been a highwayman, I should have eat his blood, body, and guts, before he had robbed me, or any one in this *diligence*.“ „Ha, ha, ha, (cried Miss Jenny) I believe you will eat all you kill, indeed captain.“ The usurer was so well pleased at the event

of this adventure, that he could not refrain from being severe, and took notice that captain Weazel seemed to be a good Cristian, for he had armed himself with patience and resignation, instead of carnal weapons: and worked out his salvation with fear and trembling. This piece of satire occasioned a great deal of mirth at Weazel's expence, who muttered many oaths, and threatened to cut Isaac's throat. The usurer taking hold of this menace, said, „Gentlemen and ladies, I take you all to witness, that my life is in danger from this bloody minded officer. — I'll have him bound over to the peace.“ This second sneer procured another laugh against him, and he continued crest-fallen during the remainder part of our journey.

CHAP. XIII.

Strap and I are terrified by an Apparition — Strap's Conjecture — The Mystery explained by Joey — We arrive at London — Our Dress and Appearance described — We are insulted in the Street — An Adventure in an Ale-house — we are imposed upon by a waggish Footman — Set to rights by a

*Tobacconist — Take Lodgings — Dive for
a Dinner — An Accident at our Ordinary.*

We arrived at our inn, supped, and went to bed; but Strap's distemper continuing, he was obliged to rise in the middle of the night, and taking the candle in his hand, which he had left burning for the purpose, he went down to the house of office, whence in a short time he returned in a great hurry, with his hair standing on end, and a look betokening horror and astonishment. Without speaking a word, he set down the light, and jumped into bed behind me, where he lay and trembled with great violence. When I asked him what was the matter? he replied with a broken accent, „God have mercy on us! I have seen the Devil.“ Though my prejudice was not quite so strong as his, I was not a little alarmed at this exclamation; and much more so, when I heard the sound of bells approaching our chamber, and felt my bed-fellow cling close to me, uttering these words, „Christ have mercy upon us! there he comes.“ — At that instant a monstrous overgrown raven entered our chamber, with bells at his feet, and made directly towards our bed. — As this creature is reckoned in our country a common vehicle

for the devil and witches to play their pranks in, I verily believed we were haunted; and in a violent fright, strunk under the bed clothes. This terrible apparition leapt upon the bed, and after giving us several severe dabs with his beak through the blankets, hopped away, and vanished. Strap and I recommended ourselves to the protection of Heaven with great devotion, and when we no longer heard the noise, ventured to peep up and take breath. But we had not long been freed from this phantom, when another appeared that had well nigh deprived us both of our senses. We perceived an old man enter the room, with a long white beard that reached to his middle: there was a certain wild peculiarity in his eyes and countenance, that did not savour of this world; and his dress consisted of a brown stuff coat buttoned behind and at the wrists, with an old fashioned cap of the same stuff upon his head. — I was so amazed that I had not power to move my eyes from such a ghastly object, but lay motionless, and saw him come strait up to me: when he reached the bed he wrung his hands, and cried, with a voice that did not seem to belong to a human creature, „Where's Ralph?“ — I made no reply; upon which

he repeated in an accent still more preternatural, „Where's Ralpho? — He had no sooner pronounced these words, than I heard the sound of the bells at a distance; which the apparition having listened to, tript away, and left me almost petrified with fear. It was a good while before I could recover myself so far as to speak; and when at length I turned to Strap, I found him in a fit, which, however did not last long, — When he came to himself, I asked his opinion of what had happened; and he assured me that the first must certainly be the soul of some person damned, which appeared by the chains about his legs (for his fears had magnified the creature to the bigness of a horse, and the sound of small maurice bells to the clanking of massy chains) — As for the old man, he took it to be the spirit of somebody murdered long ago in this place, which had power granted it to torment the assassin in the shape of a raven, and that Ralpho was the name of the said murderer. — Although I had no great faith in this interpretation, I was too much troubled to enjoy any sleep; and in all my future adventures never passed a night so ill. — In the morning, Strap imparted the whole affair to Joey, who, after

an immoderate fit of laughter, explained the matter, by telling him the old man was the landlord's father, who had been an idiot some years, and diverted himself with a tame raven, which, it seems, had hopped away from his apartment in the night, and induced him to follow it to our chamber, where he enquired after it under the name of Ralpho.

Nothing remarkable happened during the remaining part of our journey, which continued six or seven days longer: At length, we entered the great city, and lodged all night at the inn where the waggon put up.

Next morning all the passengers parted different ways; while my companion and I sallied out to enquire for the Member of Parliament, to whom I had a letter of recommendation from Mr. Crab. As we had discharged our lodging at the inn, Strap took up our baggage, and marched behind me in the street with the knapsack at his back, as usual, so that we made a very whimsical appearance. — I had dressed myself to the greatest advantage; that is, put on a clean ruffled shirt, and my best thread stockings; my hair, (which was of the deepest red) hung down upon my shoulders as lank and as strait as a pound of candles; and the skirts of my coat reached to the

middle of my leg; my waistcoat and breeches were of the same piece, and cut in the same taste: and my hat very much resembled a barber's bason, in the shallowness of the crown, and narrowness of the brim. Strap was habited in a much less awkward manner: but a short crop-eared wig that very much resembled Scrub's in the play, and a knapsack on his back, added to what is called a queer fiz, occasioned by a long chin, and hook nose, and high cheek bones, rendered him on the whole a very fit subject of mirth and pleasantry. As we walked along, Strap, at my desire, inquired of a carman, whom he met, whereabouts Mr. Cringer lived; — and was answered by a stare, accompanied with the word, „Anan!“ Upon which I came up, in order to explain the question, but had the misfortune to be unintelligible likewise, the carman damning us for an lousy Scotch guard, and whipping his horses with a „Gee ho?“ which nettled me to the quick, and roused the indignation of Strap so far, that after the fellow was gone a good way, he told me he would fight him for a farthing. — While we were deliberating upon what was to be done, an hackney coachman driving softly along, and perceiving us standing by the kennel, came up close to us, and calling,

„A coach, master!“ by a dexterous management of the reins, made his horses stumble in the wet, and bedaub us all over with mud. — After which exploit he drove on, applauding himself with a hearty laugh, in which several people joined, to my great mortification; but one more compassionate than the rest, seeing us strangers, advised me to go into an ale-house and dry myself. I thanked him for his advice, which I immediately complied with; and going into the house he pointed out, called for a pot of beer, and sat down by a fire in the public room, where we cleaned ourselves as well as we could. — In the mean time, a wag, who sat in a box smoaking his pipe, understanding by our dialect, that we were from Scotland, came up to me, and with a grave countenance, asked how long I had been caught? As I did not know the meaning of this question, I made no answer; and he went on, saying, it could not be a great while, for my tail was not yet cut; at the same time taking hold of my hair, and tipping the wink to the rest of the company, which seemed highly entertained with his wit. — I was incensed at this usage, but afraid of resenting it, because I happened to be in a strange place, and perceived the person

who spoke to me was a brawny fellow, for whom I thought myself by no means a match. However, Strap, having either more courage or less caution, could not put up with the insults that I suffered; but told him, in a peremptory tone, „He was an uncivil fellow for making so free with his betters.“ — Then the wit going towards him, asked What he had got in his knapsack? „Is it oatmeal or brimstone, Sawny?“ said he, seizing him by the chin, which he shook, to the inexpressible diversion of all present. — My companion feeling himself assaulted in such an opprobrious manner, disengaged himself in a trice, and lent his antagonist such a box on the ear, as made him stagger to the other side of the room; and, in a moment, a ring was formed for the combatants. — Seeing Strap beginning to strip, and my blood being heated with indignation, which banished all other thoughts, I undressed myself to the skin in an instant, and declared, that as the affront that occasioned the quarrel was offered to me, I would fight it out myself: upon which one or two cried out, „That’s a brave Scotch boy, you shall have fair play, by G—d.“ This assurance gave me fresh spirits; and going up to my adversary, who by his pale countenance did not

seem much inclined to the battle, I struck him so hard on the stomach, that he reeled over a bench, and fell to the ground. Then I attempted to keep him down, in order to improve my success, according to the manner of my own country; but was restrained by the spectators, one of whom endeavoured to raise up my opponent, but in vain, for he protested he would not fight, as he was not quite recovered of a late illness. — I was very well pleased at this excuse, and immediately dressed myself, having acquired the good opinion of the company for my bravery; as well as of my comrade Strap, who shook me by the hand, and wished me joy of the victory. And having drank our pot, and dried our cloaths, we enquired of the landlord if he knew Mr. Cringer, the Member of Parliament, and were amazed at his replying in the negative; for we imagined he must be altogether as conspicuous here as in the borough he represented; but he told us we might possibly hear of him as we passed along. — We betook ourselves, therefore, to the street; where seeing a footman standing at a door, we made up to him, and asked if he knew where our patron lived? — This member of the party-coloured fraternity, surveying us

both very minutely, said he knew Mr. Cringer very well, and bade us turn down the first street on our left, then turn to the right, and then to the left again, after which perambulation we should observe a lane, through which we must pass, and at the other end we should find an alley that led to another street, where we should see the sign of the Thistle and Three Pedlars, and there he lodged. — We thanked him for his information, and went forwards, Strap telling me, that he thought this person to be an honest, friendly man, by his countenance, before he opened his mouth; in which opinion I acquiesced, ascribing his good manners to the company he daily saw in the house where he served. We followed his directions punctually, in turning to the left and to the right, and to the left again: but instead of seeing a lane before us, found ourselves at the side of the river, a circumstance that perplexed us not a little; and my fellow-traveller ventured to pronounce, that we had certainly missed our way. — By this time we were pretty much fatigued with our walk; and not knowing how to proceed, I went into a small snuff-shop hard by, encouraged by the sign of the Highlander, where I found, to my inexpressible satisfaction,

the shop-keeper was my countryman. — He was no sooner informed of our peregrination, and the directions we had received from the footman, than he informed us we had been imposed upon, telling us Mr. Cringer lived at the other end of the town: and that it would be to no purpose for us to go thither to day, for by that time he was gone to the House. — I then asked if he could recommend us to a lodging. He readily gave us a line to one of his acquaintance, who kept a chandler's shop not far from St. Martin's Lane; there we hired a bed room, up two pair of stairs, at the rate of 28. *per* week, so very small, that when the bed was let down, we were obliged to carry out every other piece of furniture that belonged to the apartment, and use the bedstead instead of chairs. About dinner-time our landlord asked us how we proposed to live? to which interrogation we answered, that we would be directed by him. „Well then, (says he) there are two ways of eating in this town, for people of your condition: the one more creditable and expensive than the other; the first, is to dine at an eating-house, frequented by well dressed people only; and the other, is called diving, practised by those

who are either obliged or inclined to live frugally." — I gave him to understand, that provided the last was not infamous, it would suit much better with our circumstances than the other. Infamous! (cried he) God forbid! there are many creditable people, rich people, aye, and fine people, that dine every day, I have seen many a pretty gentleman, with a laced waistcoat, dine in that manner very comfortably for three pence halfpenny, and go afterwards to the coffee-house, where he made a figure with the best lord in the land — but your own eyes shall bear witness — I will go along with you to-day, and introduce you." — He accordingly conducted us to a certain lane, where stopping, he bade us observe him, and do as he did, and walking a few paces, dived into a cellar, and disappeared in an instant. — I followed his example, and descending very successfully, found myself in the middle of a cook's shop, almost suffocated with the steam of boiled beef, and surrounded by a company of hackney coachmen, chairmen, draymen, and a few footmen out of place, or on board wages; who sat eating shin of beef, tripe, cow-heel, or sausages, at separate boards, covered with cloths which turned my stomach — While I stood

in amaze, undetermined whether to sit down or walk upwards again, Strap, in his descent, missing one of his steps, tumbled headlong into this infernal ordinary, and overturned the cook as she carried a porringer of soup to one of the guests: In her fall, she dashed the whole mels against the legs of a drummer belonging to the foot-guards, who happened to be in her way, and scalded him so miserably, that he started up, and danced up and down, uttering a volly of execrations that made my hair stand on end, While he entertained the company in this manner, with an eloquence peculiar to himself, the cook got up, and after a hearty curse on the poor author of his mischance, who lay under the table scratching his rump with a woeful countenance, emptied a salt seller in her hand, stripping down the patient's stocking, which brought the skin along with it, applied the contents to the sore. — This poultice was scarce laid on, when the drummer, who had begun to abate his exclamation, broke forth into such a hideous yell, as made the whole company tremble; then seizing a pewter pint pot that stood by him, squeezed the sides of it together, as if it had been made of pliant leather, grinding his teeth at the same time

with a most horrible grin. Guessing the cause of this violent transport, I bade the woman wash off the salt, and bathe the part with oil, which she did, and procured immediate ease. But here another difficulty occurred, which was no other than the landlady's insisting on his paying for the pot he had rendered useless. He swore he would pay for nothing but what he had eaten, and bade her be thankful for his moderation, or else he would prosecute her for damages. — Strap, foreseeing the whole affair would lie at his door, promised to satisfy the cook, and called for a dram of gin to treat the drummer, which entirely appeased him, and composed all animosities. After this accommodation, our landlord and we sat down at a board, and dined upon shin of beef most deliciously; our reckoning amounting to two-pence halfpenny each, bread and small beer included.

CHAP. XIV.

We visit Strap's Friend — A Description of him — His Advice — We go to Mr. Cringer's House — Are denied Admittance — An Accident befalls Strap — His Behaviour there upon — an extraordinary

*Adventure occurs, in the Course of which
I lose my Money.*

In the afternoon my companion proposed to call at his friend's house, which, we were informed, was in the neighbourhood, whither we accordingly went, and were so lucky as to find him at home. This gentleman, who had come from Scotland three or four years before, kept a school in town, where he taught the Latin, French, and Italian languages; but what he chiefly professed, was the pronunciation of the English tongue, after a method more speedy and uncommon than any practised heretofore; and, indeed, if his scholars spoke like their master, the latter part of his undertaking was certainly performed to a tittle; for although I could easily understand every word of what I had heard hitherto since I entered England, three parts in four of his dialect were as unintelligible to me, as if he had spoke in Arabic or Irish. — He was a middle sized man, and stooped very much, though not above the age of forty; his face was frightfully pitted with the small pox, and his mouth extended from ear to ear. — He was dressed in a night - gown of plaid, fastened about his middle with a serjeant's old sash, and a tie

periwig with a fore-top three inches high, in the fashion of king Charles the Second's reign. — After he had received Strap (who was related to him) very courteously, he inquired of him, who I was: and being informed, took me by the hand, telling me, he was at school with my father. — When he understood my situation, he assured me that he would do me all the service in his power, both by his advice and otherwise; and while he spoke these words, eyed me with great attention, walking round me several times, and muttering, „O Ch——st! O Ch——st! fat a saight is here.“ — I soon guessed the reason of his ejaculation, and said, „I suppose, Sir, you are not pleased with my drefs.“ — „Drefs, (answered he) you may caal it fat you please in your country, but I vaw to Gad 'tis a masquerade here. — No christian will admit such a figure into his hawse. — Upon my conscience, I wonder the dogs did not hunt you! — Did you pass through St. James's market? — God blefs my eye saight! you look like a cousin-german of Euran Outang.“ — I began to be a little serious at this discourse, and asked him, if he thought I should obtain entrance to-morrow at the house of Mr. Cringer, on whom I chiefly depended, for an introduction into

business — „Mr. Cringer, Mr. Cringer, (replied he, scratching his cheek) may be a very honest gentleman — I know nothing to the contrary; but is your sole dependance upon him?“ — I pulled out Mr. Crab's letter, and told him the foundation of my hopes; at which he stared at me, and repeated, „Ch—st!“ — I began to conceive bad omens from this behaviour of his, and begged he would assist me with his advice; which he promised to give very frankly; and as a specimen, directed us to a periwig warehouse, in the neighbourhood, in order to be accommodated; laying strong injunctions on me not to appear before Mr. Cringer, till I had parted with those carotty locks, which, he said, were sufficient to beget an antipathy against me among all mankind. And as we were going to pursue his advice, he called me back, and bid me be sure to deliver my letter into Mr. Cringer's own hand. As we walked along, Strap triumphed greatly in our reception with his friend, who (it seems) had assured him, he would in a day or two provide for him, with some good master; and „now (says he) you shall see how I will fit you with a wig. — There's ne'er a barber in London (and that's a bold word) can palm a rotten caul, or a pennyweight of

dead hair upon me." — And indeed this zealous adherent did wrangle so long with the merchant, that he was desired twenty times to leave the shop, and see if he could get one cheaper elsewhere. At length I made choice of a good handsome bob, for which I paid ten shillings, and returned to our lodging, where Strap, in a moment, rid me of that hair which had given the school-master so much offence.

We got up next day betimes, having been informed that Mr. Cringer gave audience by candle-light to all his dependants, he himself being obliged to attend the levee of my lord Terrier, at break of day; because his lordship made one at the minister's between eight and nine o' clock. — When we came to Mr. Cringer's door, Strap, to give an instance of his politeness, ran to the knocker, which he employed so loud and so long, that he alarmed the whole street; and a window opening in the second story of the next house, a chamber pot was discharged upon him so successfully, that the poor barber was wet to the skin, while I, being luckily at some distance, eskaped the unsavory deluge. — In the mean time the footman opening

the door, and seeing no body in the street but us, asked, with a stern countenance, if it was I who made such a damn'd noise, and what I wanted. — I told him I had business with his master, whom I desired to see. Upon which he clapped the door in my face, telling me, I must learn better manners before I could have access to his master. Vexed at this disappointment, I turned my resentment against Strap, whom I sharply reprimanded for his presumption; but he, not in the least regarding what I said, wrung the urine out of his periwig, and lifting up a large stone, flung it with such force against the street door of that house from whence he had been bedewed, that the lock giving way, it flew wide open, and he took to his heels, leaving me to follow him as I could. — Indeed there was no time for deliberation; I therefore pursued him with all the speed I could exert until we found ourselves, about the dawn, in a street we did not know. Here as we wandered along, gaping about, a very decent sort of a man passing by me, stopped of a sudden, and took up something, which, having examined, he turned, and presented it to me with these words, „Sir, you have dropt half a crown,“ — I was not a little surprised at

this instance of honesty, and told him it did not belong to me; but he did me recollect, and see if all my money was safe: upon which I pulled out my purse (for I had bought one since I came to town) and reckoning my money in my hand, which was now reduced to five guineas, seven shillings, and two-pence, assured him I had lost nothing. — „Well then, (says he) so much the better, — this is a God-send — and as you two were present when I picked it up, you are entitled to equal shares with me.“ — I was astonished at these words, and looked upon this person to be a prodigy of integrity, but absolutely refused to take any part of the sum. — „Come, gentlemen, (said he) you are too modest — I see you are strangers — but you shall give me leave to treat you with a wet this cold raw morning.“ — I would have declined this invitation, but Strap whispered to me, that the gentleman would be affronted, and I complied. — „Where shall we go? (said the stranger) I am quite ignorant of this part of the town.“ — I informed him that we were in the same situation: upon which he proposed to go into the first public house we should find open; and as we walked together, he began in this manner: — „I find by your tongues you are from

Scotland, gentlemen. My grandmother, by the father's side, was of your country, and I am so prepossessed in his favour, that I never meet a Scotchman but my heart warms. — The Scots are a very brave people. There is scarce a great family in the kingdom that cannot boast of some exploits performed by ist ancestors many hundred years ago. — There's your Douglasses, Gordons, Campbells, Hamiltons. — We have no such ancient families here in England. — Then you are all very well educated — I have known a pedlar talk in Greek and Hebrew, as well as if they had been his mother-tongue. — And for honesty — I once had a servant, his name was Gregory Macgregor; I would have trusted him with untold gold.“ — This eulogium on my native country gained my affection so strongly, that I believe I could have gone to death to serve the author; and Strap's eyes swam in tears. At length, as we passed through a dark narrow lane, we perceived a public-house, which we entered: and found a man sitting by the fire, smoaking his pipe, with a pint of purl before him. — Our new acquaintance asked us, if ever we had drank egg flip? To which question we answered in the negative, he

assured us of a regale, and ordered a quart to be prepared, calling for pipes and tobacco at the same time. We found this composition very palatable, and drank heartily: the conversation (which was introduced by the gentleman) turning upon the snares that young unexperienced people are exposed to in this metropolis. — He described a thousand cheats that are daily practised upon the ignorant and unwary; and warned us of them with so much good-nature and concern, that we blessed the opportunity which threw us in his way. — After we had put the can about for some time, our new friend began to yawn, telling us he had been up all night with a sick person; and proposed we should have recourse to some diversion to keep him awake. — „Suppose (said he) we should take a hand at whist for pastime. — But let me see, that won't do, there's only three of us; and I cannot play at any other game. — The truth is, I seldom or never play but out of complaisance, or at such a time as this, when I am in danger of falling asleep.“ — Although I was not much inclined to gaming, I felt no aversion to pass an hour or two at cards with a friend; and knowing that Strap understood as much of

the matter as I, made no scruple of saying, „I wish we could find a fourth hand.“ While we were in this perplexity, the person whom he found in the house at our entrance, over-hearing our discourse, took the pipe from his mouth very gravely, and accosted us thus: Gentlemen, my pipe is out, you see (shaking the ashes into the fire) and rather than you should be balked, I don't care if I take a hand with you for a trifle. — but remember I won't play for any thing of consequence.“ — We accepted his offer with pleasure: having cut for partners, it fell to my lot to play with him, against our friend and Strap, for three-pence a game. — We were so successful, that in a short time I was half a crown gainer: when the gentleman whom we had met in the street, observing we had no luck to-day, proposed to leave off, or change partners. — By this time I was inflamed with my good fortune, and expectation of improving it, as I perceived the two strangers played but indifferently: therefore I voted for giving him his revenge: and cutting again, Strap and I (to our mutual satisfaction) happened to be partners — My good fortune attended me still, and in less than an hour, we had got thirty shillings of their money; for as

they lost they grew the keener, and doubled stakes every time. At last the inconstant goddess began to veer about, and we were very soon stript of all our gain, and about forty shillings of our own money. This loss mortified me extremely, and had a visible effect on the muscles of Strap's face, which lengthened apace; but our atagonists perceiving our condition, kindly permitted us to retrieve our loss, and console ourselves with a new acquisition. Then my companion wisely suggested it was time to be gone; upon which the person who had joined us in the house began to curse the cards; and muttered that we were indebted to fortune only for what we had got, no part of our success being owing to our good play. This insinuation nettled me so much, that I challenged him to a game at piquet for a crown; and he was with difficulty persuaded to accept the invitation. — This contest ended in less than an hour, to my inexpressible affliction, who lost every shilling of my own money, Strap absolutely refusing to supply me with a six-pence. The gentleman, at whose request we had come in, perceiving by my disconsolate looks the situation of my heart, which well nigh bursted with grief and resentment, when the other stranger

got up, and went away with my money, began in this manner: I am truly afflicted at your bad luck, and would willingly repair it, was it in my power. But what in the name of goodness could provoke you to tempt your fate so long? It is always a maxim with gamesters to pursue success as far as it will go, and to stop whenever fortune shifts about — You are a young man, and your passions too impetuous; you must learn to govern them better: — However, there is no experience like that which is bought; you will be the better for this, the longest day you have to live. — As for the fellow who has got your money, I don't half like him. — Did not you observe me tip you the wink, to leave of in time? — I answered, No. „No, (continued he) you was too eager to mind any thing but the game. — But, harkee, (said he, in a whisper) are you satisfied of that man's honesty? his looks are a little suspicious: — But I may be mistaken; he made a great many grimaces when he stood behind you: this is a very wicked town.“ I told him I was very well convinced of my comrade's integrity and that the grimaces he mentioned, were doubtless owing to his anxiety at my loss — „O ho! if that be the case, I ask his pardon —

Landlord, see what's to pay" — The reckoning amounted to eighteen pence, which having discharged, the gentleman shook us both by the hand, and saying he should be very glad to see us again, departed.

CHAP. XV.

Strap moralizes — Presents his Purse to me — We inform my Landlord of my Misfortune; he unravels the Mystery — I present myself to Cringer — He recommends and turns me over to Mr. Staytape — I become acquainted with a Fellow Dependant, who explains the Character of Cringer and Staytape — And informs me of the Method to be pursued at the Navy Office and Surgeons'-hall — Strap is employed.

In our way to our lodging, after a profound silence on both sides, Strap with a hideous groan observed, that he had brought our pigs to a fine market. To this observation I made no reply; and he went on: „God send us well out of this place, we have not been in London eight and forty hours, and I believe we have met with eight and forty thousand misfortunes — We have been jeer'd,

reproached, buffeted, pissed upon, and at last stript of all our money: and I suppose by and by we shall be stript of our skins. — Indeed as to the money-part of it, that was owing to our own folly: Solomon says, *Bray a fool in a mortar, and he will never be wise.* Ah! God help us, an ounce of prudence is worth a pound of gold.“ This was no time for him to tamper with my disposition, already mad with my loss, and inflamed with resentment against him for having refused me a little money to attempt to retrieve it. I therefore turned towards him with a stern countenance, and asked, „Who he called fool!“ Being altogether unaccustomed to such looks from me, he stood still, and stared in my face for some time; then with some confusion, uttered, „Fool! — I called nobody fool but myself; — I am sure I am the greatest fool of the two, for being so much concerned at other people’s misfortunes: — but *Nemo omnibus horis sapit*, — that’s all — that’s all,“ — Upon which a silence ensued that brought us to our lodging, where I threw myself upon the bed in an agony of despair, resolved to perish rather than apply to my companion or any other body for relief; but Strap, who knew my temper, and whose heart bled

within him at my distress, after some pause came to the bed-side, and putting a leathern purse into my hand, burst into tears, crying, „I know what you think: but I scorn your thoughts. — — There's all I have in the world, take it, and I'll perhaps get more for you before that be gone. — — If not, I'll beg for you, steal for you, go through the wide world with you, and starve with you; for though I be a poor cobbler's son, I am no scout“ — — I was so touched with the generous passion of this poor creature, that I could not refrain from weeping also; and we mingled our tears together for some time. — — Upon examining the purse, I found in it two half guineas and half a crown, which I would have returned to him, saying, he knew better than I how to manage it, but he absolutely refused my proposal, and told me, it was more reasonable and decent that he should depend upon me, who was a gentleman, than that I should be controuled by him.

After this friendly contest was over, and our minds more at ease, we informed our landlord of what had happened to us, taking care to conceal the extremity to which we were reduced. He no sooner heard the story, than he assured us we had

been grievously imposed upon by a couple of sharpers, who were associates; and that this polite, honest, friendly, humane person, who had treated us so civilly, was no other than a rascally money-dropper, who made it his business to decoy strangers in that manner, to one of his own haunts, where an accomplice or two were always waiting to assist in pillaging the prey he had run down. — Here the good man recounted a great many stories of people who had been seduced, cheated, pilfered, beat, — — nay, even murdered by such villains. I was confounded at the artifice and wickedness of mankind, and Strap, lifting up his eyes and hands to heaven, prayed that God would deliver him from such scenes of iniquity: for surely the devil had set up his throne in London. — — Our landlord being curious to know what reception we had met with at Mr. Cringer's, we acquainted him with the particulars, at which he shook his head, and told us we had not gone the right way to work; that there was nothing to be done with a m—b—r of p—m—t without a bribe; and that the servant was commonly infected with his master's disease, and expected to be paid for his work as well as his betters. — He therefore advised me to give the footman a

shilling the next time I should desire admittance to my patron, or else I should scarce find an opportunity to deliver my letter. Accordingly, next morning, when the door was opened, I slipped a shilling into his hand, and told him I had a letter for his master. — I found the good effects of my liberality; for the fellow let me in immediately, and taking the letter out of my hand, desired me to wait in a kind of passage for an answer. In this place I continued standing for three quarters of an hour, during which time I saw a great many young fellows, whom I formerly knew in Scotland, pass and repass with an air of familiarity, in their way to and from the audience-chamber; while I was fain to stand shivering in the cold, and turn my back to them, that they might not perceive the lowness of my condition. — At length Mr. Cringer came out to see a young gentleman to the door, who was no other than 'squire Gawky, dressed in a very gay suit of clothes; at parting, Mr. Cringer shook him by the hand, and told him he hoped to have the pleasure of his company at dinner. Then turning about towards me he asked what were my commands, when he understood I was the person who had

brought the letter from Mr. Crab, he affected to recollect my name, which, however, he pretended he could not do, till he had consulted the letter again: to save him that trouble, I told him my name was Random — Upon which he went on, „Aye, Aye, Random, Random, Random — I think I remember the name;“ and very well he might, for this very individual Mr. Cringer had many a time rode before my grandfather's cloak bag, in quality of a footman. — Well, (says he) you propose to go on board a man of war, as surgeon's mate.“ I replied by a low bow. „I believe it will be a difficult matter (continued he) to procure a warrant, there being already such a swarm of Scotch Surgeons at the Navy Office, in expectation of the next vacancy, that the commissioners are afraid of being torn to pieces, and have actually applied for a guard to protect them. — However, some ships will soon be put in commission, and then we shall see what's to be done.“ So saying, he left me, exceedingly mortified at the different reception Mr. Gawky and I had met with, from this upstart, proud, mean member, who, (I imagined) would have been glad of an opportunity to be grateful for the obligations he owed to my family.

At my return, I was surprised with the agreeable news of Strap's being employed on the recommendation of his friend the school-master, by a periwig-maker in the neighbourhood, who allowed him five shillings per week, besides bed and board. — I continued to dance attendance every other morning at the levee of Mr. Cringer; during a fortnight, in which time I became acquainted with a young fellow of my own country and profession, who also depended on the member's interest; but was treated with much more respect than I, both by the servants and master, and often admitted into a parlour, where there was a fire for the convenience of the better sort of those who waited for him. — Thither I was never permitted to penetrate, on account of my appearance which was not at all fashionable; but was obliged to stand blowing my fingers in a cold lobby, and take the first opportunity of Mr. Cringer's going to the door to speak with him. — One day, while I enjoyed this occasion, a person was introduced, whom Mr. Cringer no sooner saw, than, running towards him, he saluted him with a bow to the very ground, and afterwards shaking him by the hand with great heartiness and familiarity, called him his good friend, and

asked very kindly after Mrs. Staytape and the young ladies; then, after a whisper which continued some minutes, wherein I overheard the word *honour* repeated several times with great emphasis. Mr. Cringer introduced me to this gentleman, as to a person whose advice and assistance I might depend upon; and having given me his direction, followed me to the door, where he told me, I need not give myself the trouble to call at his house any more, for Mr. Staytape would do my business. — At that instant my fellow dependant coming out after me, overheard the discourse of Mr. Cringer, and making up to me in the street accosted me very civilly: This address I looked upon as no small honour, considering the figure he made; for he was dressed in a blue frock with a gold button, a green silk waistcoat trimmed with gold, black velvet breeches, white silk stockings, silver buckles, a gold laced hat, a spencer wig, and a silver hilted hanger, with a fine clouded cane in his hand. — „I perceive (said he) you are but lately come from Scotland; — pray what may your business with Mr. Cringer be? — I suppose it is no secret — and I may, possibly, give you some advice that will be serviceable; for I have been surgeon's second mate on

board of a seventy gun ship, and consequently know a good deal of the world." — I made no scruple to disclose my situation, which when he had learned, he shook his head, and told me he had been pretty much in the same circumstances about a year ago! that he had relied on Cringer's promises, until his money (which was considerable) as well as his credit was quite exhausted: and when he wrote to his relations for a fresh supply, instead of money, he received nothing but reproaches, and the epithets of idle, debauched fellow: that after he had waited at the Navy office many months for a warrant, to no purpose, he was fain to pawn some of his clothes, which raised a small sum, wherewith he bribed the s—t—y, who soon procured a warrant for him, notwithstanding he had affirmed the same day that there was not one vacancy. — That he had gone on board, where he remained nine months, at the end of which the ship was put out of commission; and he said the company were to be paid off in Broad street the very next day. — That his relations being reconciled to him, had charged him to pay his devoirs regularly to Mr. Cringer, who had informed them by letter, that his interest alone had procured the warrant; in obedience to which command, he came

to his levee every morning as I saw, though he looked upon him to be a very pitiful scoundrel. — In conclusion, he asked me if I had yet passed at surgeon's hall? To which question I answered, I did not so much as know it was necessary. — „Necessary, (cried he) O Lord, O Lord! I find I must instruct you — come along with me, and I'll give you some information about that matter.“ — So saying, he carried me into an ale-house, where he called for some beer, and bread and cheese, on which we breakfasted. While we sat in this place, he told me I must first go to the Navy-office, and write to the board, desiring them to order a letter for me to the Surgeon's hall, that I might be examined touching my skill in surgery: That the surgeons, after having examined me, would give me, my qualifications sealed up in form of a letter, directed to the commissioners, which qualification I must deliver to the secretary of the board, who would open it in my presence, and read the contents. After which I must employ my interest to be provided for as soon as possible. — That the expence of his qualification for second mate of a third rate amounted to thirteen shillings, exclusive of the warrant, which cost him half a guinea and half a crown,

besides the present to the secretary, which consisted of a three pound twelve piece. — This calculation was like a thunder-bolt to me, whose whole fortune did not amount to twelve shillings — I accordingly made him acquainted with this part of my distress, after having thanked him for his information and advice. — He condoled me on this occasion; but bade me be of good cheer, for he had conceived a friendship for me, and would make all things easy. — He was run out at present, but to-morrow or next day he was certain of receiving a considerable sum; of which he would lend me what would be sufficient to answer my exigencies. This frank declaration pleased me so much, that I pulled out my purse and emptied it before him, begging him to take what he pleased for pocket-expence, until he should receive his own money. — With a good deal of pressing he was prevailed upon to take five shillings, telling me that he might have what money he wanted at any time for the trouble of going into the city; but as he met with me, he would defer his going thither till to-morrow, when I should go along with him, and he would put me in a way of acting for myself, without a servile dependance on that rascal Cringer, much less on the lousy taylor

to whom I heard him turn you over. — How, (cried I) is Mr. Staytape a taylor?“ — „No less, I'll assure you, (answered he) and, I confess, more likely to serve you, than the member: For, provided you can entertain him with politics and conundrums, you may have credit with him for as many, and as rich clothes as you please.“ — I told him I was utterly ignorant of both, and so incensed at Cringer's usage, that I would never set foot within his door again. — After a good deal more conversation, my new acquaintance and I parted, having made an appointment to meet next day at the same place, in order to set out for the city. I went immediately to Strap, and related every thing which had happened, but he did not at all approve of my being so forward to lend money to a stranger, especially as we had already been so much imposed upon by appearances. „However, (said he) if you are sure he is a Scotchman, I believe you are safe.“

CHAP. XVI.

My new Acquaintance breaks an Appointment — I proceed by myself to the Navy Office — Address myself to a Person

there, who assists me with his Advice — Write to the Board — They grant me a Letter to the Surgeons at the Hall — am informed of the Beau's name and character — Find him — He makes me his Confidant in an Amour — desires me to pawn my Linen for his Occasions — I recover what I lent him — Some curious Observations of Strap on that Occasion — His Vanity.

In the morning I rose and went to the place of rendez vous, where I waited two hours in vain; and was so exasperated against him for breaking his appointment, that I set out for the city by myself, in hope of finding the villain, and being revenged on him for his breach of promise. — At length I found myself at the Navy-office, which I entered, and saw crowds of young fellows walking below, many of whom made no better appearance than myself. — I consulted the phisiognomy of each, and at last made up to one whose countenance I liked; and asked if he could instruct me in the form of the letter which was to be sent to the board, to obtain an order for examination: He answered me in broad Scotch, that he would shew me the copy of what he had writ for himself, by the

direction of another who knew the form: and accordingly pulled it out of his pocket for my perusal; and told me, that if I was expeditious, I might send it in to the board before dinner, for they did not business in the afternoon. He then went with me to a coffee-house hard by, where I wrote the letter, which was immediately delivered to the messenger; who told me I might expect an order to morrow about the same time. — Having transacted this piece of business, my mind was a good deal composed; and as I met with so much civility from this stranger, I desired further acquaintance with him, fully resolved, however, not to be deceived by him so much to my prejudice as I had been by the beau. — He agreed to dine with me at the cook's shop which I frequented; and on our way thither, carried me to 'Change, where I was in some hopes of finding Mr. Jackson (for that was the name of the person who had broke his appointment) — I sought him there to no purpose, and on our way towards the other end of the town, imparted to my companion his behaviour towards me: Upon which, he gave me to understand, that he was no stranger to the name of Beau Jackson (so he was called at the navy-office) although he did not know him personally;

that he had the character of a good-natured careless fellow, who had no scruple of borrowing from any body that would lend; that most people who knew him believed he had a good principle at bottom; but his extravagance was such, he would probably never have it in his power to manifest the honesty of his intention. — This account made me sweat for my five shillings, which I nevertheless did not altogether despair of recovering, provided I could find out the debtor — This young man likewise added another circumstance of Squire Jackson's history, which was, that being destitute of all means to equip himself for sea, when he received his last warrant, he had been recommended to a person who lent him a little money, after he had signed a will and power, entitling that person to lift his wages when they should become due, as also to inherit his effects in case of his death. — That he was still under the tutorage and direction of that gentleman, who advanced him small sums from time to time upon this security, at the rate of 50 *per cent.* But at present his credit was very low, because his funds would do little more than pay what he had already received, this moderate interest included. — After the stranger (whose name

was Thomson) had entertained me with this account of Jackson, he informed me that he himself had passed for third mate of a third rate, about four months ago: since which time, he had constantly attended at the Navy-office, in hope of a warrant, having been assured from the beginning, both by a Scotch member, and one of the commissioners to whom the member recommended him, that he should be put into the first vacancy; notwithstanding which promise he had the mortification to see six or seven appointed in the same station almost every week — that now being utterly impoverished, his sole hope consisted in the promise of a friend lately come to town, to lend him a small matter for a present to the s—t—y; without which he was persuaded he might wait a thousand years to no purpose. — I conceived a mighty liking for this young fellow, which, (I believe) proceeded from the similitude of our fortunes: We spent the whole day together: and as he lived at Wapping, I desired him to take a share of my bed.

Next day we returned to the Navy-office, where, after being called before the board, and questioned about the place of my nativity and education, they ordered a letter to be made out for me, which, upon paying half

a crown to the clerk I received, and delivered into the hands of the clerk at Surgeon's hall, together with a shilling for his trouble in registering my name. — By this time my whole stock was diminished to two shillings, and I saw not the least prospect of relief, even for present subsistence, much less to enable me to pay the fees at Surgeons'-hall for my examination, which would come on in a fortnight. — In this state of perplexity, I consulted Strap, who assured me, he would pawn every thing he had in the world, even to his razors, before I should want: but this expedient I absolutely rejected, telling him, I would a thousand times rather list for a soldier, of which I had some thoughts than be any longer a burden to him. — At the word soldier, he grew pale as death, and begged on his knees I would think no more of that scheme. „God preserve us all in our right wits! (cried he) would you turn soldier, and perhaps be sent abroad against the Spaniards, where you must stand and be shot at like a woodcock? — Heaven keep cold lead out of my carcase! and let me die in a bed like a christian, as all my forefathers have done. — What signifies all the riches and honours of this life, if one enjoys not content. — And in the next there is no respect of persons. Better be a poor

honest barber, with a good conscience, and time to repent of my sins upon my death-bed, than be cut off (God bless us) by a musket shot, as it were, in the very flower of one's age, in the pursuit of riches and fame. — What signify riches (my dear friend!) do not they make unto themselves wings, as the wise man saith: and does not Horace observe, *Non domus aut fundus, non aeris acervus aut auri, aegroto domino deduxit corpore febrem, non animo curas.* — I could moreover mention many other sayings in contempt of riches, both from the bible and other good books: but as I know you are not very fond of those things, I shall only assure you, that if you take on to be a soldier I will do the same; and then if we should both be slain, you will not only have your own blood to answer for, but mine also: And peradventure the lives of all those whom we shall kill in battle. — Therefore I pray you consider whether you will sit down contented with small things, and share the fruits of my industry in peace, till Providence shall send us better tidings, or by your despair plunge both our souls and bodies into everlasting, perdition, which God of his infinite mercy forbid.“ — I could not help smiling at this harangue, which was delivered

with great earnestness, the tears standing in his eyes all the time; and promised to do nothing of that sort without his consent and concurrence. — He was much comforted at this declaration; and told me in a few days he should receive a week's wages which should be at my service, but advised me, in the mean time, to go in quest of Jackson, and recover, if possible, what he had borrowed of me. — I accordingly trudged about from one end of the town to the other for several days without being able to learn any thing certain concerning him. And, one day, being extremely hungry, and allured by the steams that regaled my nostrils from a boiling cellar, I went down with an intention to gratify my appetite with two penny worth of beef; when, to my no small surprise, I found Mr. Jackson sitting at dinner with a footman. — He no sooner perceived me than he got up, and shook me by the hand, saying, „He was glad to see me, for he intended to have called at my lodgings in the afternoon.“ — I was so well pleased with this rencounter, and the apologies he made for not keeping his appointment, that I forgot my resentment, and sat down to dinner, with the happy expectation of not only recovering my own money before we

should part, put also of reaping the benefit of his promise, to lend me wherewithal to pass examination; and this hope my sanguine complexion suggested, though the account Thomson gave me of him ought to have moderated my expectation. — When we had feasted sumptuously, he took his leave of the footman, and adjourned with me to an ale-house hard by, where, after shaking me by the hand again, he began thus: „I suppose you think me a sad dog, Mr. Random: and I do confess that appearances are against me. — But I dare say you will forgive me when I tell you, my not coming at the time appointed was owing to a peremptory message I received from a certain lady, whom — harkee (but this is a great secret) I am to marry very soon. — You think this strange perhaps, but it is not less true for all that — a five thousand pounder, I'll assure you, besides expectations. — For my own part, devil take me if I know what any woman can see engaging about me, — but a whim you know, — and then one would not baulk one's good fortune. — You saw that footman who dined with us — he's one of the honestest fellows that ever wore a livery. — You must know, it was by his

means I was introduced to her, for he made me first acquainted with her woman, who is his mistress — aye, many a crown has he and his sweetheart had of my money — but what of that? things are now brought to a bearing. — I have (come a little this way) I have proposed marriage, and the day is fixt — she's a charming creature! writes like an angel. — O lord! she can repeat all the English tragedies as well as e'er a player in Drury-Lane! and indeed is so fond of plays, that to be near the stage, she has taken lodgings in a court hard by the theatre. — But you shall see — you shall see — here's the last letter she sent me." — With these words he put into my hand, and I read (to the best of my remembrance) as follows:

„Dear Kreeter,

As you are the amiable hopjack of my contemplayshins, you ayder is infernally skimming before my keymerycal fansee, when Murfy sends his puppies to the heys of slipping mortals; and when Febus shines from his merrydying throne: Whereupon, I shall canseeif old whorie time has lost his pinners, as also Cupid his harrows, until thou enjoy

sweet propose in the loafseek harms of thy
faithfool to commend,

Wingar yeard, Droory-Lane,

January 12th."

CLAYRENDER."

While I was reading, he seemed to be in an ecstasy, rubbing his hands, and bursting out into fits of laughter; at last he caught hold of my hand, and squeezing it, cried, „There is a style for you! what do you think of this billet-doux?“ I answered, it might be sublime for ought I knew, for it was altogether above my comprehension.“ — „O ho! (said he) I believe it is — both tender and sublime — she's a divine creature! — and so doats upon me! — Let me see — what shall I do with this money, when I have once got it into my hands? — In the first place I shall do for you — I'm a man of few words — but say no more, — that's determined — whether would you advise me to purchase some post, by which I may rise in the state; or lay out my wife's fortune in land, and retire to the country at once?“ I gave my opinion without hesitation, that he could not do better than buy an estate and improve; especially since he had already seen so much of the world. Then I launched out into the praises of a country life, as described by the poets whose

works I had read — He seemed to relish my advice, but withal told me, that although he had seen a great deal of the world both by land and sea, having cruized three whole months in the channel, yet he should not be satisfied until he had visited France, which he proposed to do before he should settle; and to carry his wife along with him — I had nothing to object to this proposal; and asked how soon he hoped to be happy — “As to that (he replied) nothing obstructs my happiness, but the want of a little ready cash — for you must know, my friend in the city has gone out of town for a week or two; and I unfortunately missed my pay at Broad street, by being detained too long by the dear charmer — but there will be a recall at Chatham next week, whither the ship’s books are sent, and I have commissioned a friend in that place to receive the money.” — If that be all (said I) there’s no great harm in deferring your marriage a few days. — Yes faith! but there is, (said he) you don’t know how many rivals I have, who would take all advantages against me. — I would not baulk the impatience of her passion for the world — the least appearance of coldness and indifference would ruin all; and such offers don’t occur every day.” I acquiesced in this observation,

and inquired how he intended to proceed. „At this question he rubbed his chin, and said, “ Why truly I must be obliged to some friend or other — do you know nobody that would lend me a small sum for a day or two! — I assured him I was such an utter stranger in London, that I did not believe I could borrow a guinea if my life depended upon it. — „No! (said he) that’s hard — that’s hard — I wish I had any thing to pawn — upon my soul you have got excellent linen (feeling the sleeve of my shirt) how many shirts of that kind have you got?“ — I answered, „Six ruffled and six plain.“ — At which he testified great surprise, and swore that no gentleman ought to have more than four — „How many d’ye think I have got (continued he); but this and another as I hope to be saved! I dare say we shall be able to arise a good sum out of your superfluity — let me see — let me see — each of these shirts is worth sixteen shillings at a moderate computation — now suppose we pawn them for half price — eight times eight is sixty-four, that’s three pounds four —z—ds! that will do — give me your hand.“ — „Softly, softly, Mr. Jackson, (said I) don’t dispose of my linen without my consent: first pay me the crown you owe me, and then we

shall talk of other matters." — He protested he had not above one shilling in his pocket, but that he would pay me out of the first of the money raised from the shirts. — This piece of assurance incensed me so much, that I swore I would not part with him until I had received satisfaction for what I had lent him, and as for the shirts I would not pawn any one of them to save him from the gallows. — At this expression he laughed aloud, and then complained it was damned hard, that I should refuse him a trifle, that would infallible enable him not only to make his own fortune, but mine also. — „You talk of pawning my shirts (said I), suppose you sell this hanger, Mr. Jackson? I believe it would fetch a god round sum?" — „No, hang it (said he) I can't appear decently without my hanger, or egad it should go." However, seeing me inflexible with regard to my linen, he at length unbuckled his hanger, and shewing me the sign of the three blue balls, desired me to carry it thither and pawn it for two guineas. This office I should by no means have performed, had I seen any likelihood of having my money otherwise; but not willing, out of a piece of false delicacy, to neglect the only opportunity I should perhaps ever have, I

ventured into a pawn-broker's shop, where I demanded two guineas on the pledge, in the name of Thomas Williams — „Two guineas! (said the pawn-broker, looking at the hanger) this piece of goods has been here several times before for thirty shillings; however, since I believe the gentleman to whom it belongs will redeem it, he shall have what he wants; and accordingly he payed me the money, which I carried to the house where I had left Jackson, and calling for change, counted out to him seven and thirthy shillings, reserved the other five for myself.

After looking at the money some time he said. „D—n it! it don't signify — this won't do my business; so you may as well take half a guinea or a whole one, as the five shillings you have kept.“ — I thanked him kindly, but I refused to accept of any more than was my due, because I had no prospect of repaying it. — Upon which declaration he stared in my face, and told me I was excessively raw, or I would not talk in that manner: — „Blood, (cried he) I have a very bad opion of a young fellow who won't borrow of his friend, when he is in want — 'tis the sign of a sneaking spirit. — Come, come, Random, give me back the

five shillings, and take this half guinea, and if ever you are able to pay me I believe you will; — if not, d—n me if ever I ask for it.“ ——— When I reflected on my present necessity, I suffered myself to be persuaded, and after making my acknowledgments to Mr. Jackson, who offered to treat me with a play, I returned to my lodgings with a much better opinion of this gentleman than I had in the morning: and at night imparted my days adventure to Strap, who rejoiced at my good luck, saying, „I told you if he was a Scotchman you was safe enough — and who knows but this marriage may make us all. — You have heard, I suppose, as how a countryman of ours, a journeyman baker, ran away with a great lady of this town, and now keeps his coach. — Ecod, I say nothing; but yesterday morning, as I was shaving a gentleman at his own house, there was a young lady in the room — a fine buxom wench, i'faith! and she threw so many sheeps eyes at a certain person, whom I shall not name, that my heart went knock, knock, knock, like a fulling mill, and my hand sh—sh—skook so much that I sliced a piece of skin off the gentleman's nose: whereby he swore a deathly oath, and was going to horsewhip me, when she prevented him, and

made! my 'peace. — *Omen haud malum!* Is not a journeyman barber as good as a journeyman baker? The only difference is, the baker uses flour for the belly, and the barber uses it for the head; and as the head is a more noble member than the belly, so is a barber more noble than a baker — for what's the belly without the head? — Besides, I am told he could neither read nor write; now you know I can do both: and moreover speak Latin — but I will say no more, for I despise vanity." — nothing is more vain than vanity." — With these words he pulled out of his pocket a wax candle's end, which he applied to his forehead; and, upon examination, I found he had combed his own hair over the toupee of his wig, and was indeed in his whole dress become a very smart shaver. — I congratulated him on his prospect with a satirical smile, which he understood very well; and shaking his head, observed I had very little faith, but the truth would come to light in spite of my incredulity.

CHAP. XVII.

I go to Surgeon's Hall, where I meet with Mr. Jackson — Am examined — A fierce Dispute arises between two of the Examiners —

Jackson disguises himself to attract Respect — Is detected — In hazard of being sent to Bridewell — He treats us at a Tavern — Carries us to a Night-House — A troublesome Adventure there — We are committed to the Round House — Carried before a Justice — His Behaviour.

With the assistance of this faithful adherent, who gave me almost all the money he earned, I preserved my half guinea entire, till the day of examination, when I went with a quaking heart to Surgeon's Hall, in order to undergo that ceremony. — Among a crowd of young fellows who walked in the outward hall I perceived Mr. Jackson, to whom I immediately went up, and enquiring into the state of his amour, understood it was still undetermined, by reason of his friend's absence, and the delay of the recal at Chatham, which put it out of his power to bring it to a conclusion. — I then asked what his business was in this place; he replied, he was resolved to have two strings to his bow, that in case the one failed, he might use the other; and with this view he was to pass that night for a higher qualification. — At that instant a young fellow came out from the place of examination, with a pale counte-

nance, his lip quivering, and his looks as wild as if he had seen a ghost. — He no sooner appeared, than we all flocked about him with the utmost eagerness to know what reception he had met with; which (after some pause) he described, recounting all the questions they had asked, with the answers he made. In this manner we obliged no less than twelve to recapitulate, which, now the danger was past, they did with pleasure, before it fell to my lot: at length the beadle called my name, with a voice that made me tremble as much as if it had been the sound of the last trumpet: However, there was no remedy: I was conducted into a large hall, where I saw about a dozen of grim faces sitting at a long table; one of whom bade me come forward, in such an imperious tone that I was actually for a minute or two bereft of my senses. — The first question he put to me was, „Where was you born?“ To which I answered, „in Scotland“ — „In Scotland, (said he) I know that very well — we have scarce any other countrymen to examine here — You Scotchmen have overspread us of late as the locusts did Egypt: — I ask you in what part of Scotland was you born?“ — I named the place of my nativity, which he had never

before heard of. he then proceeded to interrogate me about my age, the town where I served my time, with the term of my apprenticeship; and, when I informed him that I served three years only, he fell into a violent passion; swore it was a shame and a scandal to send such raw boys into the world as Surgeons; that it was a great presumption in me, and an affront upon the English, to pretend to sufficient skill in my business, having served so short a time, when every apprentice in England was bound seven years at least; — that my friends would have done better if they had made me a weaver or shoemaker, but their pride would have me a gentleman (he supposed) at any rate, and their poverty could not afford the necessary education. — This exordium did not at all contribute to the recovery of my spirits, but on the contrary reduced me to such a situation that I was scarce able to stand; which being perceived by a plump gentleman who sat opposite to me, with a skull before him, he said, Mr. Snarler was too severe upon the young man; and turning towards me, told me, I need not be afraid, for nobody would do me any harm; then bidding me take time to recollect myself, he examined me, touching

the operation of the trepan, and was very well satisfied with my answers. — The next person who questioned me was a wag, who began by asking if I had ever seen amputation performed; and I replying in the affirmative, he shook his head, and said, What! upon a dead subject, I suppose? If (continued he) during an engagement at sea, a man should be brought to you with his head shot off, how would you behave? — After some hesitation, I owned such a case had never come under my observation; neither did I remember to have seen any method of cure proposed for such accidents in any of the systems of surgery I had perused. Whether it was owing to the simplicity of my answer, or to the archness of the question, I know not, but every member at the board deigned to smile, except Mr. Snarler, who seemed to have very little of the *animal risibile* in his constitution. — The facetious member, encouraged by the success of the last joke, went on thus: „Suppose you was called to a patient of a plethoric habit, who had been bruised by a fall, what would you do?“ I answered I would bleed him immediately. „What, (said he) before you had tied up his arm?“ — But this stroke of wit not answering his

expectation, he desired me to advance to the gentleman who sat next to him: and who with a pert air, asked what method of cure I would follow in wounds of the intestines. — I repeated the method of cure as it is prescribed by the best chirurgical writers; which he heard to an end, and then said, with a supercilious smile, „So you think by such treatment the patient might recover?“ — I told him I saw nothing to make me think otherwise. — „That may be (resumed he) I wont answer for your foresight; but did you ever know a case of this kind succeed?“ I acknowledged I did not; and was about to tell him I had never seen a wounded intestine; but he stopt me, by saying with some precipitation, „nor ever will. — I affirm that all wounds of the intestines, whether great or small, are mortal.“ — „Pardon, me, brother, (says the fat gentleman) there is very good authority“ — Here he was interrupted by the other, with “Sir, excuse me, I despise all authority. — *Nullius in verba* — I stand upon my own bottom.“ „But, Sir, Sir, (replied his antagonist) the reason of the thing shews.“ — „A fig for reason, (cried this sufficient member) I laugh at reason, give me ocular demonstration.“ — The corpulent gentleman began to wax warm,

and observed that no man acquainted with the anatomy of the parts would advance such an extravagant assertion, — This *inuendo* enraged the other so much, that he started up, and in a furious tone exclaimed: „What Sir! do you question my knowledge in anatomy? — By this time, all the examiners had espoused the opinion of one or other of the disputants, and raised their voices altogether, when the chairman commanded silence, and ordered me to withdraw. In less than a quarter of an hour I was called in again, received my qualifications sealed up, and was ordered to pay five shillings. — I laid down my half guinea upon the table, and stood some time, until one of them bade me be gone; to this I replied, I will when I have got my change; upon which another threw me five shillings and sixpence, saying, I should not be a true Scotchman if I went away without my change. I was afterwards obliged to give three shillings and sixpence to the beadles, and a shilling to an old woman who swept the hall: This disbursement sunk my finances to thirteen pence halfpenny, with which I was sneaking off, when Jackson perceiving it, came up to me, and begged I would tarry for him, and he would accompany me to the other

end of the town, as soon as his examination should be over. I could not refuse this to a person that was so much my friend — but I was astonished at the change of his drels, which was varied in half an hour from what I have already described, to a very grotesque fashion. — His head was covered with an old smoaked tye-wig, that did not boast one crooked hair, and a slouched hat over it, which would have very well become a chimney sweeper or a dustman; his neck was adorned with a black crape, the ends of which he twisted and fixed in the button-hole of a shabby great coat that wrapped up his whole body; his white silk stockings were converted into black worsted hose; and his countenance was rendered venerable by wrinkles, and a beard of his own painting. — When I expressed my surprize at this metamorphosis, he laughed, and told me, it was done by the advice and assistance of a friend who lived over the way, and would certainly produce something very much to his advantage; for it gave him the appearance of age, which never fails of attracting respect. I applauded his sagacity, and waited with impatience for the effects of it. At length he was called in; but whether the oddness of his appearance excited a curiosity

more than usual in the board, or his behaviour was not suitable to his figure, I know not, he was discovered to be an impostor, and put into the hands of the beadle, in order to be sent to Bridewell. So that instead of seeing him come out with a chearful countenance, and a surgeon's qualification in his hand, I perceived him led through the outward-hall as a prisoner; and was very much alarmed and anxious to know the occasion; when he called, with a lamentable voice and pitious aspect to me, and some others who knew him; „For God's sake, gentlemen, bear witness that I am the same individual John Jackson, who served as surgeon's second mate on board the Elizabeth, or else I shall go to Bridewell.“ — It would have been impossible for the most austere hermit that ever lived, to have refrained from laughing at his appearance and address; we, therefore, indulged ourselves a good while at his expence, and afterwards pleaded his cause so effectually with the beadle, who was gratified with half a crown, that the prisoner was dismissed; and in a few moments resumed his former gaiety; — swearing since the board had refused his money, he would spend it every shilling before he went to bed in treating his friends; at the same time

inviting us all to favour him with our company. It was now ten o'clock at night, and as I had a great way to walk through the streets, that were utterly unknown to me, I was prevailed upon to be of their party, in hopes he would afterwards accompany me to my lodgings, according to his promise. He conducted us to his friend's house, who kept a tavern over the way, where he continued drinking punch, until the liquor mounted up to our heads, and made us all extremely frolicsome: I in particular was so much elevated that nothing would serve me but a wench, at which demand Jackson expressed much joy, and assured me I should have my desire before we parted. — Accordingly, when we had paid the reckoning, we sallied out, roaring and singing; and were conducted by our leader to a place of nocturnal entertainment, where I immediately attached myself to a fair one, with whom I proposed to spend the remaining part of the night; but she not relishing my appearance, refused to grant my request before I should have made her an acknowledgment, which not suiting with my circumstances, we broke off our correspondence to my no small mortification and resentment, because I thought the mercenary creature had not done justice to my

merit. — In the mean time, Mr. Jackson's dress had attracted the inclinations and assiduities of two or three nymphs, who loaded him with caresses, in return for the arrack punch with which he treated them; till at length, notwithstanding the sprightly sallies of those charmers, sleep began to exert his power over us all: and our conductor called „To pay.“ — When the bill was brought, which amounted to twelve shillings, he put his hand in his pocket, but might have saved himself the trouble, for his purse was gone. This accident disconcerted him a good deal at first, but after some recollection, he seized the two dulcineas, who sat by him, one in each hand; and swore if they did not immediately restore his money, he would charche a constable with them. — The good lady at the bar seeing what passed, whispered something to the drawer, who went out; and then with great composure asked what was the matter? — Jackson told her he was robbed, and swore if she refused him satisfaction, he would have her and her whores committed to Bridewell. — „Robbed, (cried she) robbed in my house! Gentlemen and ladies, I take you all to witness this person has scandalized my reputation.“ — At this instant seeing the constable and

watch enter, she proceeded, „What, you must not only endeavour by your false aspersions to ruin my character; but even commit an assault upon my family? Mr. Constable, I charge you with this uncivil person, who has been guilty of a riot here; I shall take care and bring an action against him for defamation.“ — While I was reflecting on this melancholy event, which had made me quite sober, the lady, whose favours I had solicited, being piqued at some repartee that passed between us, cried, „They are all concerned;“ — and desired the constable to take us all into custody, an arrest which was performed instantly, to the utter astonishment and despair of us all, except Jackson, who having been often in such scrapes, was very little concerned, and charged the constable, in his turn, with the landlady and her whole bevy: Upon which we were carried all together prisoners to the round house; where Jackson, (after a word of comfort to us,) informed the constable of his being robbed, to which he said he would swear next morning before the justice. — „Aye, aye, (says the bawd) we shall see whose oath will most signify.“ In a little time the constable calling Jackson into another room, spoke to him thus; „I

perceive that you and your company are strangers, and am very sorry for your being involved in such an ugly business. I have known this woman a great while, she has kept a notorious house in the neighbourhood these many years; and although often complained of as a nuisance, still escapes, through her interest with the j—t—ces, to whom she, and all of her employment, pay contribution quarterly for protection. — As she charged me with you first, her complaint will have the preference! and she can procure evidence to swear whatever she shall please to desire of them: So that, unless you can make it up before morning, you and your companions may think yourselves happily quit for a month's hard labour in Bridewell. — Nay, if she should swear a robbery or assault against you, you will be committed to Newgate, and tried next sessions at the Old Bailey, for your life.“ — This last piece of information had such an effect upon Jackson, that he agreed to make it up, provided his money might be restored. The constable told him, that instead of retrieving what he had lost, he was pretty certain, it would cost him some more before [they would come to any composition. — But, however, he had compassion on him, and

would, if he pleased, sound them about a mutual release. — The unfortunate beau thanked him for his friendship, and returning to us, acquainted us with the substance of this dialogue; while the constable desiring to speak in private with our adversary, carried her into the next room, and pleaded our cause so effectually, that she condescended to make him umpire; He accordingly proposed an arbitration, to which we gave our assent; and he fined each party in three shillings, to be laid out in a bowl of punch, wherein we drowned all animosities, to the inexpressible joy of my two late acquaintances and me, who had been in the state of the damned ever since Jackson mentioned Bridewell and Newgate. — By the time we had finished our bowl, to which, by the bye, I had contributed my last shilling, it was morning; and I proposed to move homeward, when the constable gave me to understand, he could discharge no prisoner but by order of the justice, before whom we must appear. — This renewed my chagrin, and I cursed the hour in which I had yielded to Jackson's invitation. — About nine o'clock we were escorted to the house of a certain justice, not many miles distant from Covent-Garden; who no sooner saw the constable enter,

with a train of prisoners at his heels, than he saluted him as follows: „So! Mr. Constable, you are a diligent man — What den of rogues have you been scouring? Then looking at us, who appeared very much dejected, he continued, „Aye, aye, thieves I see — old offenders — O your humble servant, Mrs. Harridan! I suppose these fellows have been taken robbing your house — yes, yes, here's an old acquaintance of mine — you have used expedition (said he to me) in returning from transportation; but we shall save you the trouble for the future — the surgeons will fetch you from your next transportation, at their expence.“ — I assured his worship he was mistaken in me, for he had never seen me in his life before. — To this declaration he replied, „How, you impudent rascal, dare you to say so to my face? Do you think I am to be imposed upon by that northern accent which you have assumed? but it shan't avail you, — you shall find me too far north for you. — Here, clerk, write this fellow's *mittimus*. — His name is Patrick Gahagan.“ — Here Mr. Jackson interposed, and told him I was a Scotchman, lately come to town, descended of a good family, and that my name was Random. — The justice

looked upon this assertion as an outrage upon his memory, on which he valued himself much, and strutting up to Jackson, with a fierce countenance, put his hands in his sides, and said, „Who are you, Sir? — Do you give me the lie? — Take notice, gentlemen, here’s a fellow who affronts me upon the bench, but I’ll lay you fast, sirrah I will — for, notwithstanding your laced jacket, I believe you are a notorious felon “ My friend was so much abashed at this menace, which was thundered out with great vociferation, that he changed colour, and remained speechless. — This confusion his worship took for a symptom of guilt, and to complete his discovery, continued his threats — „Now, I am convinced you are a thief, — your face discovers it, — you tremble all over — your conscience won’t lie still — you’ll be hang’d; sirrah, (raising his voice) you’ll be hang’d; and happy had it been for the world, as well as your own miserable soul, if you had been detected and cut off in the beginning of your career. — Come hither, clerck, and take this man’s confession.“ — I was in an agony of consternation, when the constable going into another room with his worship, acquainted him with the truth of the story: which

having learned, he returned with a smiling countenance, and addressing himself to us all, said, it was always his way to terrify young people, when they came before him, that his threats might make a strong impression on their minds, and deter them from engaging in scenes of riot and debauchery, which commonly ended before the judge. — Thus having cloaked his own want of discernment under the disguise of paternal care, we were dismissed; and I found myself as much lightened as if a mountain had been lifted off my breast.

CHAP. XVIII.

I carry my Qualification to the Navy Office — The Nature of it — The Behaviour of the S—t—y — Strap's concern for my Absence — A Battle between him and a Blacksmith — The troublesome Consequence of it — His Harangue to me — His Friend the Shoolmaster recommends me to a French Apothecary, who entertains me as a Journeyman.

I would willingly have gone home to sleep, but was told by my companions, that we must deliver our letters of qualification

at the Navy - Office before one o'clock; accordingly we went thither and gave them to the S-t-y, who opened and read them, and I was mightily pleased to find myself qualified for a second mate of a third rate. When he had stuck them all together on a file, one of our company asked if there were any vacancies; to which interrogation he answered, No. Then I ventured to inquire if any ships were to be put in commission soon — At which question he surveyed me with a look of ineffable contempt, and pushing us out of his office, locked the door without deigning us another word. — We went down stairs and conferred together on our expectations, when I understood that each of them had been recommended to one or other of the commissioners; and each of them promised the first vacancy that should fall; but that none of them relied solely upon that interest, without a present to the S-t-y, with whom some of the c——— went snacks. — For which reason each of them had provided a small purse; and I was asked what I proposed to give? — This was a vexatious question to me, who (far from being in a capacity to gratify a ravenous S-t-y) had not wherewithal to purchase a dinner. — I therefore answered, I had not yet determined

what to give: and sneaked off towards my own lodgings, cursing my fate all the way, and inveighing with much bitterness against the barbarity of my grandfather, and the sordid avarice of my relations, who left me a prey to contempt and indigence. — Full of these disagreeable reflections, I arrived at the house where I lodged, and relieved my landlord from great anxiety on my account; for this honest man believed I had met with some dismal accident, and that he should never see me again. — Strap, who had come to visit me in the morning, understanding I had been abroad all night, was almost distracted; and after having obtained leave of his master, had gone in quest of me, though he was even more ignorant of the town than I. Not being willing to inform my landlord of my adventure, I told him, I had met an acquaintance at Surgeon's hall, with whom I had spent the evening and night, but being very much infested by bugs, I had not slept much, and therefore intended to take a little repose; so saying, I went to bed, and desired to be awakened if Strap should happen to come while I should be asleep. — I was accordingly roused by my friend himself, who entered my chamber about three o'clock in the afternoon; and

presented a figure to my eyes, that I could scarce believe real. — In short, this affectionate shaver, setting out towards Surgeon's hall, had inquired for me there to no purpose; from thence he found his way to the Navy-office, — where he could hear no tidings of me, because I was unknown to every body then present; he afterwards went upon 'Change, in hopes of seeing me upon the Scotch walk; but without success. At last, being almost in despair of finding me, he resolved to ask every body he met in the street, if perchance any one could give him information about me; and actually put his resolution in practice, in spite of the scoffs, curses, and reproaches with which he was answered; until a blacksmith's 'prentice, seeing him stop a porter with a burden on his back, and hearing his question, for which he received a hearty curse, called to him, and asked if the person he inquired after was not a Scotchman? — Strap replied with great eagerness, „Yes, and had on a brown coat with long skirts.“ — „The same (said the blacksmith) I saw him pass by an hour ago.“ — Did you so? (cried Strap, rubbing his hands,) Odd! I am very glad of that — which way went he?“ — „Towards Tyburn in a cart (said he;) if you make good speed,

you may get thither time enough to see him hanged.“ — This piece of wit incensed my friend to such a degree, that he called the blacksmith scoundrel, and protested he would fight him for half a farthing — „No, no, (said the other stripping) I'll have none of your money, — you Scotchmen seldom carry any about you — but I'll fight you for love.“ — There was a ring immediately formed by the mob: and Strap finding he could not get off honourably without fighting, at the same time burning with resentment against his adversary, quitted his clothes to the care of the multitude, and the battle began with great violence on the side of Strap, who in a few minutes exhausted his breath and spirits on his patient antagonist, who sustained the assault with great coolness, till finding the barber quite spent, he returned the blows he had lent him with such interest, that Strap, after having received three falls on the hard stones, gave out, and allowed the blacksmith to be the better man. — The victory being thus decided, it was proposed to adjourn to a cellar hard by and drink friends. — But when my friend began to gather up his clothes, he perceived that some honest person or other had made free with his shirt, neckcloth, hat and wig,

which were carried off; and probably his coat and waistcoat would have met with the same fate, had they been worth stealing. It was in vain for him to make a noise, which only yielded mirth to the spectators; he was fain to get off in this manner, which he accomplished with much difficulty, and appeared before me all besmeared with blood and dirt. — Notwithstanding this misfortune, such was his transport at finding me safe and sound, that he had almost stifled and stunk me to death with his embraces. — After he had cleaned himself, and put on one of my shirts, and a woollen night cap; I recounted to him the particulars of my night's campaign, which filled him with admiration, and made him repeat with great energy an observation which was often in his mouth, namely, „that surely London was the devil's drawing-room.“ — As neither of us had dined, he desired me to get up, and the milk-woman coming round at that instant, he went down stairs and brought up a quart, with a penny brick, on which we made a comfortable meal. He then shared his money with me, which amounted to eighteen pence, and left me, with an intention to borrow an old wig and hat of his friend the school-master. He was no sooner gone, than I began to consider my situation with great uneasiness,

and revolved all the schemes my imagination could suggest, in order to choose and pursue some one that would procure me bread; for it is impossible to express the pangs I felt, when I reflected on the miserable dependence in which I lived, at the expence of a poor barber's boy. ——— My pride took the alarm, and having no hopes of succeeding at the Navy-office, I came to a resolution of enlisting in the foot-guards next day, be the event what it would. This extravagant design, by flattering my disposition, gave me great satisfaction; and I was charging the enemy at the head of my own regiment, when Strap's return interrupted my reverie. — The school-master had made him a present of the tye-wig which he wore when I was introduced to him, together with an old hat, whose brims would have overshadowed a Colossus. — Though Strap had ventured to wear them in the dusk he did not choose to entertain the mob by day; therefore went to work immediately and reduced them both to a moderate size. While he was employed in this office, he addressed me thus: „To be sure, Mr. Random, you are born a gentleman, and have a great deal of learning — and indeed look like a gentleman, for as to person you may hold up your head with the

best of them. — On the other hand, I am a poor, but honest cobbler's son — my mother was as industrious a woman, as ever broke bread, till such time as she took to drinking, which you very well know — but every body has failings — *humanum est errare*. — Now for myself, I am a poor journeyman barber, tolerably well made, and understand some Latin, and have a smattering of Greek — but what of that? perhaps I might also say that I know a little of the world — but that is to no purpose — though you be gentle, and I simple, it does not follow but that I who am simple may do a good office to you who are gentle. Now this is the case — my kinsman the school-master — perhaps you did not know how nearly he is related to me — I'll satisfy you in that presently — his mother and my grandmother's sister's nephew — no, that's not it — my grandfather's brother's daughter — rabbit it? I have forgot the degree, but this I know, he and I are cousin's seven times removed.“ — My impatience to know the good office he had done me, got the better of my temper, and I interrupted him in this place, with, „D——n your relation and pedigree. — if the school-master or you can be of any advantage to me, why don't you tell me

without all this preamble." — When I pronounced these words with some vehemence, Strap looked at me for some time with a grave countenance, and then went on: „Surely, our pedigree is not to be d—n'd, because it is not so noble as your's. I am very sorry to see such an alteration in your temper of late — you was always fiery, but now you are grown as crabbed as old Periwinkle, the drunken tinker, on whom you and I (God forgive us) played so many unlucky tricks, while we were at school. — But I will no longer detain you in suspense, because (doubtless) nothing is more uneasy than doubt — *dubio procul dubio nil dubius* — My friend, or relation, or which you will, or both, the school-master, being informed of the regard I have for you — for you may be sure, I did not fail to let him know your good qualities — by the bye, he has undertaken to teach you the pronounciation of the English tongue, without which (he says) you will be unfit for business in this country — I say my relation has spoke in your behalf to a French apothecary who wants a journeyman: and on his recommendation, you may have fifteen pounds *per* year, bed and board, whenever you please." — I was too much interested in this

piece of news to entertain it with indifference ; but jumping up , insisted on Strap's immediately accompanying me to the house of his friend , that I might not lose this opportunity through the least delay and neglect on my part. — We were informed that the school-master was in company at a public-house in the neighbourhood, whither we repaired and found him drinking with the very individual apothecary in question. When he was called to the door at our desire, and observed my impatience, he broke out in his usual term of admiration: „O C——st! I suppose when you heard of this offer, you did not take leisure enough to come down stairs, but leapt out of the window; did you overturn no porter nor oyster-woman in your way! ——— It is a mercy of God you did not knock your brains out against some post in your career. O' my conscience! I believe had I been in the inmost recesses of my habitation. — the very *penetralia*, — even in bed with my wife: your eagerness would have surmounted bolts, bars, decency, and every thing. The den of Casus, or *Sanctum Sanctorum*, could not have hid me from you. But come along, the gentleman of whom I spoke is in the house, I will present you to him forthwith.”

—— When I entered the room, I perceived four or five people smoaking, one of whom the school-master accosted thus: „Mr. Lavement, here's the young man of whom I spoke to you.“ —— The apothecary, who was a little old withered man, with a forehead about an inch high, a nose turned up at the end, large cheek bones that helped to form a pit for his little grey eyes, a great bag of loose skin hanging down on each side in wrinkles like the alforjas of a baboon; and a mouth so accustomed to that contraction which produces grinning, that he could not pronounce a syllable without discovering the remains of his teeth, which consisted of four yellow fangs, not improperly, by anatomists, called *canine*. —— This person (I say) after having eyed me some time, said „Oho, 'tis ver well Mons. Concordance; young man, you are ver welcome, take one coup of bierre —— and come to mine house to morrow morning; M. Concordance vil shew you de way.“ —— Upon this I made my bow, and, as I went out of the room, could hear him say, *Ma foy! Ce' est un beau garçon, C'est un galliard* —— As I had by my own application, while I served Crab, acquired the French tongue well enough to read authors written in that

language, and understand any thing that occurred in conversation, I determined to pretend ignorance to my new master, that he and his family, whom I supposed to be of the same country, not being on the reserve before me, might possibly discover something in discourse, which would either yield me amusement or advantage. — Next morning Mr. Concordance carried me to the apothecary's house, where the bargain was made, and orders given to provide an apartment for me immediately. — But before I entered upon business, the school-master recommended me to his taylor, who gave me credit for a suit of clothes, to be paid out of the first moiety of my wages, and they were begun upon that very day; he afterwards accommodated me with a new hat on the same terms; so that in a few days I hoped to make a very fashionable appearance. — In the mean time, Strap conveyed my baggage to the place allotted for me, which was a back room up two pair of stairs, furnished with a pallet for me to lie upon, a chair without a back, an earthen chamber-pot without a handle, a bottle by way of a candlestick, and a triangular piece of glass instead of a mirror, the rest of its ornaments having been lately removed to one

of the garrets, for the convenience of the servant of an Irish captain, who lodged in the first floor.

CHAP. XIX.

The Characters of Mr. Lavement, his Wife and Daughter — Some Anecdotes of the Family — The Mother and Daughter rivals — I am guilty of a Mistake that gives me present Satisfaction, but is attended with troublesome Consequences.

Next day, while I was at work in the shop, a bouncing damsel, well dressed, came in, on pretence of finding a vial for some use or other: and taking an opportunity, when she thought I did not mind her, of observing me narrowly went away with a silent look of disdain. — I easily guessed her sentiments, and my pride took the resolution of entertaining the same indifference and neglect towards her. — At dinner, the maids, with whom I dined in the kitchen, gave me to understand that this was my master's only daughter, who would have a very handsome fortune, on account of which, and her beauty, a great many young gentlemen made their addresses to her — that she had been

twice on the brink of marriage, but disappointed by the stinginess of her father, who refused to part with a shilling to promote the match—for which reason the young lady did not behave to her father with all the filial veneration that might be expected: In particular, she harboured the most perfect hatred for his countrymen, in which disposition she resembled her mother, who was an English woman; and, by the hints they dropp'd, I learned the grey mare was the better horse—that she was a matron of high spirit, which was often manifested at the expence of her dependents, that she loved diversions: and looked upon Miss as her rival in all parties; which was indeed the true cause of her disappointments; for, had the mother been hearty in her interest, the father would not have ventured to refuse her demands. — Over and above this intelligence, I, of myself, soon made more discoveries; Mr. Lavement's significant grins at his wife, while she looked another way, convinced me that he was not at all content with his lot: and his behaviour in presence of the captain, made me believe his chief torment was jealousy. — As for my own part, I was considered in no other light than that of a menial servant, and had been al-

ready six days in the house, without being honoured with one word, from either mother or daughter, the latter (as I understood from the maids) having at table one day expressed some surprise that her papa should entertain such an awkward mean looking journeyman. — I was nettled at this piece of information, and next Sunday (it being my turn to take my diversion) dressed myself in my new clothes to the greatest advantage, and, vanity apart, made no contemptible figure.

After having spent most part of the day in company with Strap and some of his acquaintance, I came home in the afternoon, and was let in by Miss, who, not knowing me, dropt a low curtsy as I advanced, which I returned with a profound bow, and shut the door. — By the time I had turned about, she had perceived her mistake, and changed colour, but did not withdraw. The passage being narrow, I could not get away without jostling her; so I was forced to remain where I was, with my eyes fixed on the ground, and my face glowing with blushes. — At length her vanity coming to her assistance, she went away tittering, and I could hear her pronounce the word „Creature.“ From this day forward, she came into the shop fifty times every day, upon various pretences, and put

in practice so many ridiculous airs, that I could easily perceive her opinion of me was changed, and that she did not think me altogether an unworthy conquest. — But my heart was so steeled against her charms, by pride and resentment, which were the two chief ingredients in my disposition, that I remained insensible to all her arts; and, notwithstanding some advances she made, could not be prevailed upon to yield her the least attention. — This neglect soon banished all the favourable impressions she felt for me, and the rage of a slighted woman took place in her heart; this she manifested not only in all the suggestions her malice could invent to my prejudice with her father, but also in procuring for me such servile employments as, she hoped, would sufficiently humble my spirit. One day in particular, she ordered me to brush my master's coat, but I refusing, a smart dialogue ensued, which ended in her bursting into tears of rage: when her mother interposing, and examining into the merits of the cause, determined it in my favour; and this good office I owed not to any esteem or consideration she had for me, but solely to the desire of mortifying her daughter, who on this occasion observed that let people be never so

much in the right, there were some folks who would never do them justice; but to be sure they had their reasons for it, which some people were not ignorant of, although they despised their little arts. — This insinuation of some people and some folks, put me upon observing the behaviour of my mistress more narrowly for the future; and it was not long before I had reason to believe that she looked upon her daughter as a rival in the affections of Captain O'Donnell, who lodged in the house. — In the mean time my industry and knowledge gained me the good will of my master, who would often say in French, „*Mardy! c'est un bon garçon.*“ He had a great deal of business; but, as he was mostly employed among his fellow refugees, his profits were small. — However, his expence for medicines was not great, for he was the most expert man at a succedaneum, of any apothecary in London, so that I have been sometimes amazed to see him, without the least hesitation, make up a physician's prescription, though he had not in his shop one medicine mentioned in it. — Oyster-shells he could convert into crab's eyes; common oil into oil of sweet almonds; syrup of sugar into balsamic syrup; Thames water into aqua cinnamoni;

turpentine into capivi; and an hundred more costly preparations were produced in an instant, from the cheapest and coarsest drugs of the *materia medica*. And when any common thing was ordered for a patient, he always took care to disguise it in colour or taste, or both, in such a manner, as that it could not possibly be known. — For which purpose cochineal, and oil of cloves were of great service. Among many nostrums which he possessed, there was one for the venereal disease, that brought him a good deal of money; and this he concealed so artfully from me, that I could never learn its composition. But during the eight months I stayed in his service, he was so unfortunate in the use of it, that three parts in four of those who took it were obliged to confirm the cure by a salivation, under the direction of another doctor. — This bad success, in all appearance, attached him the more to his specific; and, before I left him, I may venture to say, he would have sooner renounced the Trinity (notwithstanding his being a good Hugonot) than this confidence in the never-failing power of this remedy. — Mr. Lavement had attempted more than once to introduce a vegetable diet into his family, by launching out into the praise of roots

and greens, and decrying the use of flesh, both as a physician and philosopher; but all his rhetoric could not make one proselyte to his opinion, and even the wife of his bosom declared against the proposal. Whether it was owing to the little regard she paid to her husband's admonition in this particular, or to the natural warmth of her constitution, I know not; but this lady's passions became every day more and more violent, till at last she looked upon decency as an unnecessary restraint; and one afternoon, when her husband was abroad, and her daughter gone to visit, ordered me to call a hackney coach, in which she and the captain drove towards Covent-garden. — Miss came home in the evening, and supping at her usual hour, went to bed. About eleven o'clock my master entered, and asked if his wife was gone to sleep. Upon which I told him, my mistress went out in the afternoon, and was not yet returned. — This was like a clap of thunder to the poor apothecary, who, starting back, cried, „*Mort de ma vie!*“ vat you tell a me? — My wife not at home! At that instant a patient's servant arrived with a prescription for a draught, which my master taking, went into the shop to make it up with his own hand. — While he rubbed the ingredients in a glafs

mortar, he enquired of me, whether or no his wife went out alone; and no sooner heard that she was in company with the captain, than with one blow he split the mortar into a thousand pieces, and, grinning like the head of a bafs viol, exclaimed, „*Ah Traitresse!*“ It would have been impossible for me to have preserved my gravity a minute longer, when I was happily relieved by a rap at the door, which I opened, and perceived my mistress coming out of the coach; she flounced immediately into the shop, and addressed her husband thus: „I suppose you thought I was lost, my dear—Captain O'Donnell has been so good as to treat me with a play,“ — „Play—play (replied he) Oho! yes by gar, I believe ver prettie play.“ „Bless me (said she) what's the matter?“ — „Vat de matter? (cried he, forgetting all his former complaisance) by gar, you be one damn'd dog's wife—*ventre bleu!* me vill show you vat it is to put one horn upon mine head. Par-dieu! le Capitaine O'Donnell be one.“ — Here the captain, who had been all the while at the door discharging the coach, entered, and said, with a terrible voice, „D—me! what am I?“ — Mr. Lavement changing his tone, immediately saluted him with, „*Oh, serviteur, sieur le*

capitaine, vous etes un gallant homme — ma femme est forte obligé.“ Then turning about towards me, pronounced, with a low voice, „*Et diablement obligeante, sans doute.*“ — „Harkee, Mr. Lavement, (said the captain) I am a man of honor, and I believe you are too much of a gentleman to be offended at the civility I shew your wife.“ — This declaration had such an effect on the apothecary, that he resumed all the politesse of a Frenchman; and with the utmost prostration of compliment assured the captain that he was perfectly well satisfied with the honor he had done his wife. — Matters being thus composed, every body went to rest. — Next day I perceived through a glass door that opened from the shop into the parlour, the captain talking earnestly to Miss, who heard him with a look that expressed anger mingled with scorn; which however he at last found means to mollify, and sealed his reconciliation with a kiss. — This circumstance soon convinced me of the occasion of the quarrel; but notwithstanding all my vigilance, I could never discover any other commerce between them. — In the mean while, I had reason to believe I had inspired one of the maids with tender sentiments for me; and one night when I thought every other person in

the house asleep, I took the opportunity of going to reap the fruits of my conquest, her bedfellow having the day before gone to Richmond to visit her parents. — Accordingly I got up, and (naked as I was) explored my way in the dark, to the garret where she lay. I was ravished to find the door open, and moved softly to her bed side, transported with the hope of completing my wishes. — But what horrors of jealousy and disappointment did I feel, when I found her asleep, fast locked up in the arms of a man, whom I easily guessed to be no other than the captain's servant! I was upon the point of doing some rash thing, when the noise of a rat scratching behind the wainscot put me to flight, and I was fain to get back to my own bed in safety. — Whether this alarm had disordered my mind, or that I was led astray by the power of destiny, I know not; but instead of turning to the left hand, when I descended to the second story, I pursued the contrary course, and mistook the young lady's bed chamber for my own. I did not perceive my mistake before I had run against the bed-posts; and then it was not in my power to retreat undiscovered; for the nymph being awake, felt my approach, and with a soft voice, bade me

make less noise, lest the Scotch booby in the next room should over-hear us. This hint was sufficient to inform me of the nature of the assignation; and as my passions, at any time high, were then in a state of exaltation, I resolved to profit by my good fortune. Without any more ceremony therefore, I made bold to slip into bed to this charmer, who gave me as favourable a reception as I could desire. — Our conversation was very sparing on my part, but she upbraided the person whom I represented with his jealousy of me, whom she handled so roughly, that my resentment had well nigh occasioned a discovery more than once; but I was consoled for her hatred of me by the revenge I enjoyed in understanding from her own mouth, that it was now high time to save her reputation by matrimony; for she had reason to fear she could not much longer conceal the effect of their mutual intercourse. While I was meditating an answer to this proposal, I heard a noise in my room, like something heavy falling down upon the floor: upon which I started up, and creeping to the door of my chamber, observed by moon light-the shadow of a man groping his way out; so I retired to one side to let him pass, and saw him go

down stairs as expeditiously as he could. — It was an easy matter to divine that this was the captain, who having over-slept himself, had got up at last to keep his assignation: and finding my door open, had entered my apartment instead of that of his mistress, where I supplied his place. — But finding his mistake, by falling over my chair, he was afraid the noise might alarm the family, and for that reason made off, delaying the gratification of his desires till another opportunity. — By this time, I was satisfied; and instead of returning to the place from whence I came, retreated to my own castle, which I fortified by bolting the door, and in the congratulation of my own happiness fell asleep. — But the truth of this adventure could not be long concealed from my young mistress, who next day came to an explanation with the captain, upon his lamenting his last night's disappointment, and begging pardon for the noise he had made. — Their mutual chagrin, when they came to the knowledge of what had happened, may be easily conjectured, though each had a peculiar grief unfelt by the other; for, she was conscious of not only having betrayed to me the secrets of her commerce with him; but also of having incensed me by the freedoms

she had taken with my name, beyond a hope of reconciliation. — On the other hand, his jealousy suggested, that her sorrow was all artifice; and that I had supplied his place with her own privity and consent. — That such was the situation of their thoughts will appear in the sequel — for that very day she came into the shop where I was alone, and fixing her eyes, swimming in tears, upon me, sighed most piteously. But I was proof against her distress, by recollecting the epithets with which she had honoured me the night before; and believing that the good reception I enjoyed was destined for another; therefore I took no notice of her affliction; and she had the mortification to find her disdain returned four-fold. — However, from thence forward she thought proper to use me with more complaisance than usual, knowing that it was in my power at any time to publish her shame. By these means my life became much more agreeable (though I never could prevail upon myself to repeat my nocturnal visit) and as I every day improved in my knowledge of the town, I shook off my awkward air by degrees, and acquired a character of a polite journeyman apothecary.

CHAP. XX.

I am assaulted and dangerously wounded — Suspect O'Donnell, and am confirmed in my Opinion — Concert a Scheme of Revenge, and put it in Execution — O'Donnell robs his own Servant, and disappears — I make my Addresses to a Lady, and am miraculously delivered from her Snare.

One night about twelve o'Clock, as I returned from visiting a patient at Chelsea, I received a blow on my head from an unseen hand, that stretched me senseless on the ground; and was left for dead, with three stabs of a sword in my body. The groans I uttered when I recovered the use of my reason, alarmed the people of a solitary ale-house, that stood near the spot where I lay, and they were humane enough to take me in, and send for a surgeon, who dressed my wounds, and assured me they were not mortal. One of them penetrated through the skin and muscles of one side of the belly, in such a manner, that (doubtless) the assassin imagined he had run me through the entrails. — The second slanted along one of my ribs; and the last, which was intended for the finishing stroke, having been directed to my heart, the sword

snapt upon my breast-bone, and the point remained sticking in the skin. — When I reflected upon this event, I could not persuade myself that I had been assaulted by a common footpad; because it is not usual for such people to murder those they rob, especially when they meet with no resistance; and I found my money and every thing else about me (but my carcass) safe. I concluded, therefore, that I must either have been mistaken for another, or obliged to the private resentment of some secret enemy for what had happened: and as I could remember nobody who had the least cause of complaint against me, except captain O' Donnell and my master's daughter, my suspicion settled upon them, though I took care to conceal it, that I might the sooner arrive at confirmation. — With this view I went home in a chair about ten o' clock in the morning; and as the chairman supported me into the house, met the captain in the passage, who no sooner saw me, than he started back, and gave evident signs of guilty confusion, which he would have accounted for from the surprise occasioned by seeing me in such a condition. — My master having heard my story, condoled me with a good deal of sympathy; and when he understood my wounds were not dangerous,

ordered me to be carried up stairs to bed: though not without some opposition from his wife, who was of opinion, it would be better for me to go to an hospital, where I should be more carefully attended. — My meditation was employed in concerting with myself some method of revenge against squire O' Donnell and his inamorata, whom I looked upon as the authors of my misfortune when Miss (who was not at home at my arrival) entered my chamber; and saying she was sorry for the accident that had befallen me, asked if I suspected any one to be the assassin; Upon which I fixed my eyes stedfastly upon her, and answered, „Yes.“ — She discovered no symptom of confusion; but replied hastily, „If that be the case, why don't you take out a warrant to have him apprehended? It will cost but a trifle—if you have no money, I'll lend you.“ — This frankness not only cured me of my suspicion with respect to her; but even staggered my belief with regard to the captain, of whose guilt I resolved to have further proof, before I should enterprise any thing in the way of revenge. — I thanked her kindly for her generous offer; which however I had no occasion to accept, being determined to do nothing rashly. For though I

could plainly perceive the person who attacked me to be a soldier, whose face I thought was familiar to me, I could not swear with a safe conscience to any particular man; and granting I could, my prosecution of him would not much avail. — This uncertainty I pretended, lest the captain, hearing from her that I knew the person who wounded me, might think proper to withdraw before I could be in a condition to requite him. — In two days I was up, and able to do a little business; so that Mr. Lavement made shift to carry on his practice, without hiring another journeyman in my room. — The first thing I attempted towards a certain discovery of my secret enemy, was to get into O'Donnells apartment, while he was abroad in an undress, and examine his sword, the point of which being broke off, I applied the fragment that was found sticking in my body, and found it answered the fractured part exactly. — There was no room left for doubt; and all that remained was to fix upon a scheme of revenge, which almost solely engrossed my thoughts during the space of eight nights and days. — Sometimes I was tempted to fall upon him in the same manner as he had practised upon me, and kill him outright. But this assault

my honour opposed as a piece of barbarous cowardice, in which he was not to be imitated. At other times I entertained thoughts of demanding satisfaction in an honourable way; but was diverted from this undertaking by considering the uncertainty of the event, and the nature of the injury he had done me, which did not entitle him to such easy terms. — At last I determined to pursue a middle course; and actually put my design in execution after this manner. — Having secured the assistance of Strap and two of his acquaintance whom he could depend upon, we provided ourselves with disguises, and I caused the following letter to be delivered to him by one of our associates in livery, one Sunday evening:

„Sir,

„If I may be allowed to judge from appearance, it will not be disagreeable to you to hear that my husband is gone to Bagshot to visit a patient, and will not return till tomorrow night; so that if you have any thing to propose to me (as your behaviour on many occasions has seemed to insinuate) you will do well to embrace the present opportunity of seeing

Your's etc,

This letter was signed with the name of an apothecary's wife, who lived in Chelsea, of whom I had heard O'Donnell was an admirer. Every thing succeeded to our wish. The amorous hero hastened towards the place of assignation, and was encountered by us in the very place where he had assaulted me. We rushed upon him all at once, secured his sword, stripped off his cloathes even to the skin, which we scourged with nettles till he was blistered from head to foot, notwithstanding all the eloquence of his tears and supplications. When I was satisfied with the stripes I had bestowed, we carried off his cloathes, which we hid in a hedge near the place, and left him stark naked, to find his way home in the best manner he could, while I took care to be there before him. I afterwards understood that in his way to the lodgings of a friend, who lived in the skirts of the town, he was picked up by the watch, who carried him to the round-house, from whence he sent for clothes to his lodgings: and next morning arrived at the door in a chair, wrapt up in a blanket he had borrowed; for his body was so sore and swelled, that he could not bear to be confined in his wearing apparel. — He was treated with the utmost tenderness by my mistress and

her daughter, who vied with each other in their care and attendance of him; but Lament himself could not forbear expressing his joy, by several malicious grins, while he ordered me to prepare an unguent for his sores. As to myself, nobody can doubt my gratification, when I had every day an opportunity of seeing my revenge protracted on the body of my adversary, by the ulcers, of which I had been the cause; and, indeed, I not only enjoyed the satisfaction of having flayed him alive, but another also which I had not foreseen. The story of his being attacked and stripped in such a place having been inserted in the news, gave information to those who found his clothes next day, whither to bring them; and, accordingly he retrieved every thing he had lost, except a few letters, among which was that I had writ to him in the name of the apothecary's wife. — This and the others which (it seems) were all on the subject of love (for this Hibernian hero was one of those people who are called fortune hunters) fell into the hands of a certain female author, famous for the scandal she has published; who, after having embellished them with some ornaments of her own invention, gave them to the Town in print. — I was very

much shocked on reflecting, that I might possibly be the occasion of a whole family's unhappiness on account of the letter I had written; but was eased of that apprehension, when I understood that the Chelsea apothecary had commenced a law-suit against the printer for defamation; and looked upon the whole as a piece of forgery, committed by the author, who had disappeared. But whatever might be his opinion of the matter, our two ladies seemed to entertain a different idea of it; for, as soon as the pamphlet appeared, I could perceive their care of their patient considerably diminish, until at last it ended in total neglect. It was impossible for him to be ignorant of this change, any more than of the occasion of it; but as he was conscious to himself of having deserved worse than contempt at their hands, he was glad to come off so cheaply, and contented himself with muttering curses and threats against the apothecary, who (as he imagined) having got an inkling of the appointment with his wife, had taken revenge of him in the manner described. By the time he had got a new scarfskin, his character was become so notorious, that he thought it high time for him to decamp; and his retreat he performed one night, without beat

of drum, after having robbed his own servant of every thing that belonged to him, except the clothes he had on his back. — A few days after he disappeared, Mr. Lavement, for his own security, took into custody a large old trunk, which he had left; and as it was very heavy, made no question that the contents were sufficient to indemnify him for what O' Donnel owed in lodging. — But, a month being elapsed without hearing any tidings of this adventurer; and my master being impatient to know what the trunk contained; he ordered me to break it open in his presence, which task I performed with the pestle of our great mortar, and discovered, to his inexpressible astonishment and mortification, a heap of stones.

About this time, my friend Strap informed me of an offer he had to go abroad with a gentleman, in quality of *valet de chambre*, and at the same time assured me, that whatever advantage he might propose to himself from this prospect, he could not bear the thoughts of parting from me; so much was he attached to my fortune. In spite of all the obligations I owed to this poor honest fellow, ingratitude is so natural to the heart of man, that I began to be tired of his acquaintance; and now that I

had contracted other friendships, which appeared more creditable, was even ashamed to see a journeyman barber enquiring after me, with the familiarity of a companion. I, therefore, on pretence of consulting his welfare, insisted upon his accepting the proposal, which he at last determined to embrace with great reluctance, and in a few days took his leave of me, shedding a flood of tears, which I could not behold without emotion. I now began to look upon myself as a gentleman in reality; learned to dance of a Frenchman whom I had cured of a fashionable distemper; frequented plays during the holidays; became the oracle of an ale-house, where every dispute was referred to my decision; and at length contracted an acquaintance with a young lady, who found means to make a conquest of my heart, and upon whom I prevailed after much attendance and solicitation, to give me a promise of marriage. — As this beautiful creature passed for a rich heiress, I blessed my good fortune, and was actually on the point of crowning all my wishes by matrimony; when one morning, I went to her lodgings, and her maid being abroad, took the privilege of a bridegroom to enter her chamber, where to my utter confusion, I found her

in bed with a man. Heaven gave me patience and presence of mind enough to withdraw immediately ; and I thanked my stars a thousand times for the happy discovery, by which I resolved to profit so much, as to abandon all thoughts of marriage for the future.

CHAP. XXI.

Squire Gawky comes to lodge with my Master — Is involved in a troublesome Affair, out of which he is extricated by me — He marries my Master's Daughter — They conspire against me — I am found guilty of Theft — Discharged — Deserted by my Friends — I hire a Room in St. Giles's — where by Accident, I find the Lady to whom I made my Addresses, in a miserable Condition — I relieve her.

While I enjoyed myself at large in this temper of mind, Mr. Lavement let his first floor to my countryman and acquaintance, Squire Gawky, who by this time had got a lieutenantcy in the army, and such a martial ferocity in his appearance, that I was afraid he would remember what had happened between us in Scotland, and atone for his

breach of appointment then, by his punctuality now; but whether he had actually forgot me, or was willing to make me believe so, he betrayed not the least symptom of recognition at sight of me, and I remained quite cured of my apprehension; though I had occasion not long after to be convinced, that howsoever his externals might be altered, he was at bottom the same individual Gawky whom I have already described. — For, coming home late one night from the house of a patient, I heard a noise in the street, and as I approached, perceived two gentlemen in custody of three watchmen. The prisoners, who were miserably disfigured with dirt, complained bitterly of the loss of their hats and wigs; and one of them, whom by his tongue I knew to be an Scotchman, lamented most pitiously, offering a guinea for his liberty, which the watchman refused, alledging that one of his companions was wounded grievously, and that he must stand to the consequence. My prejudice in favour of my native country was so strong, that I could not bear to see any body belonging to it in distress, and therefore, with one blow of my faithful cudgel, knocked down the watchman who had hold of the person for whom I was chiefly concerned, — He was no sooner

disengaged, than he betook himself to his heels, and left me to maintain the dispute as I should think proper; and indeed I came off but scurvily, for before I could avail myself of my speed, I received a blow on the eye, from one of the other two, that had well nigh deprived me of the use of that organ; however, I made shift to get home, where I was informed of Captain Gawky's being robbed and abused by a company of footpads; and was ordered by my master to prepare an emollient clyster and paregoric draught, in order to allay and compose the ferment of his spirits, occasioned by the barbarous treatment he had undergone, while he took twelve ounces of blood from him immediately. — When I enquired into the particulars of this adventure, and understood from the servant that he came in just before me, without hat and wig, I made no scruple of believing him to be the person I had released, and was confirmed in my belief upon hearing his voice, to which (before that event) I had been so long a stranger. My eye being considerably swelled and inflamed, I could not reflect upon my enterprize without cursing my own folly, and even resolving to declare the truth of the whole story, in order to be revenged on the cowardly wretch for

whom I had suffered: Accordingly, next day, after he had told, in presence of my master, his wife and daughter who came to visit him, a thousand lies concerning the prowess he had shewn in making his escape, I ventured to explain the mystery, and calling in the evidence of my contused eye, upbraided him with cowardice and ingratitude. Gawky was so astonished at this discourse, that he could not answer one word: and the rest of the company stared at one another; till at length my mistress reprimanded me for my insolent behaviour, and threatened to turn me away for my presumption. — Upon which, Gawky, (having recollected himself) observed, as the young man might have mistaken another person for him, he could forgive his insinuations, more especially as he seemed to have suffered for his civility; but advised me to be more certain in my conjectures for the future, before I ventured to publish them to the prejudice of any man. — Miss applauded the captain's generosity in pardoning one who had so villainously aspersed him, and I began to imagine her praise was not at all disinterested. — But the apothecary, who, perhaps, had more penetration or less partiality than his wife and daughter, differed from them in his

sentiments of the matter, and expressed himself to me in this manner: „Ah mon pauvre Roderique ! you ave more of de veracite dan of de prudence — bot mine wife and dater be diablement sage, and Mons. le capitaine un fanfaron, pardieu.“ This eulogium on his wife and daughter, though spoken ironically by him, was, nevertheless, literally just; by espousing the cause of Gawky, the one obliged a valuable lodger, and the other acquired a husband, at a juncture when one was absolutely necessary; for, the young lady, finding the effects of her correspondence with O'Donnell becoming plainer and plainer every day, insinuated herself so artfully into the affection of this new lodger, that in less than a fortnight, on pretence of going to a play, they drove away together to the fleet, where they were coupled; from thence removed to a bagnio, where the marriage was consummated; and in the morning came home, where they asked her father's and mother's blessing — The prudent parents, notwithstanding the precipitation with which the match was carried on, did not think fit to refuse their approbation: for the apothecary was not ill pleased to find his daughter married to a young man of a good prospect:

who had not mentioned to him one syllable on the article of her dowry; and his wife was rejoiced at being rid of a rival in her gallants, and a spy upon her pleasures. Nor was I without self-enjoyment at this event, when I reflected upon the revenge I had unwittingly taken upon my enemy, in making him a cuckold by anticipation. — But I little dreamed what a storm of mischief was brewing against me while I was thus indulging myself. — Whatever face Gawky put on the matter, my discovery at the adventure before related, and the reproaches I vented against him, had stung him to the soul, and cherished the seeds of enmity so strongly in his breast, that he, (it seems) imparted his indignation to his wife, who, being as desirous as himself to compass the ruin of one who not only slighted her caresses, but was able, on any occasion to discover particulars not at all advantageous to her character, readily joined in a conspiracy against me, which (had it taken effect as they expected) would infallibly have brought me to an ignominious death.

My master having several times missed large quantities of medicines, of which I could give no account, at last lost all patience, and in plain terms taxed me with having

embezzled them for my own use. As I could only oppose my single asseveration to his suspicion, told me one day, „By gar, your vord not be give me de satisfaction — me find necessaire to chercher for my medicine, pardonnez moi — il faut chercher — me demand le clef of your coffre a cette heure “ — Then raising his voice to conceal the fright he was in, lest I should make any opposition, he went on, „Oui, foutre, I charge you rendez le clef of your coffre — moi — si, moi qui vous parle.“ — I was fired with so much resentment and disdain at this accusation, that I burst into tears, which he took for a sign of guilt; and pulling out my key, told him he might satisfy himself immediately, though he would not find it so easy to satisfy me for the injury my reputation had suffered from this unjust suspicion. — He took the key and mounted up to my chamber, attented by the whole family; saying, „He bien, nous verrons — nous verrons.“ — But what was my horror and amazement, when opening my chest he pulled out an handful of the very things that were missing, and pronounced, „Ah, ah! vous etes bien venus — mardie, Mons. Roderique, you be fort innocent.“ — I had not power to utter one word in my

own vindication, but stood motionless and silent, while every body present made their respective remarks on what appeared against me. — The servants said they were sorry for my misfortune, and went away repeating, „Who would have thought it?“ My mistress took occasion from this detection to rail against the practice of employing strangers in general; and Mrs. Gawky, after having observed that she never had a good opinion of my fidelity, proposed to have me carried before the justice and committed to Newgate immediately. Her husband was actually on the stairs in his way for a constable, when Mr. Lavement, knowing the cost and trouble of a prosecution, to which he must bind himself, and at the same time dreading lest some particulars of my confession might affect his practice, called out, „Restez, mon fils! restez, it be veritablement one grand crime which dis pauvre diable have committed — bot peutetre de good God give him de penitence, and me vill not have upon mine head the blood of one sinner.“ — The captain and his lady used all the christian arguments their zeal could suggest, to prevail on the apothecary to pursue me to destruction, and represented the injustice he did to the community of which he was a member,

in letting a villain escape, who would not fail of doing more mischief in the world, when he should reflect on his coming off so easily now: — but their eloquence made no impression on my master, who turning to me, said, „Go, miserable, go from mine house, quick, quick, — and make reparation for your mauvaise actions.“ — By this time my indignation had roused me from the stupefaction in which I had hitherto remained, and I began in this manner, „Sir, appearances, I own, condemn me; but you are imposed upon as much as I am abused — I have fallen a sacrifice to the rancour of that scoundrel, (pointing to Gawky) who has found means to convey your goods hither, that the detection of them might blast my reputation, and accomplish my destruction. — His hatred of me is owing to - consciousness of his having wronged me in my own country; for which injury he in a cowardly manner refused me the satisfaction of a gentleman; — he knows, moreover, that I am no stranger to his dastardly behaviour in this town, which I have recounted before; and he is unwilling that such a testimony of his ingratitude and pusillanimity should live upon the earth; for this reason he is guilty of the most infernal malice to bring about my

ruin. — And I am afraid, madam, (turning to Mrs. Gawky) you have too easily entered into the sentiments of your husband. — I have often found you my enemy; and am well acquainted with the occasion of your being so, which I don't at present think proper to declare; but I would not advise you for your own sake to drive me to extremity." This address enraged her so much, that with a face as red as scarlet, and the eyes of a fury, she strutted up to me, and putting her hands on her sides, spit in my face, saying, I was a scandalous villain, but she defied my malice; and that unless her papa would prosecute me, like a thief as I was, she would not stay another night under his roof. At the same time Gawky assuming a big look, told me he scorned what lies I could invent against him; but that if I pretended to asperse his wife, he would put me to death, by G—d. To this threat I answered, „I wish I could meet with thee in a desert, that I might have an opportunity of punishing thee for thy perfidy towards me, and rid the world of such a rascal — What hinders me this moment (said I, seizing an old bottle that stood by) from doing myself that justice?" I had no sooner armed myself in this manner, than

Gawky and his father-in-law retired in such a hurry, that the one overturned the other, and they rolled together down stairs; while my mistress swooned away with fear, and her daughter asked if I intended to murder her. I gave her to understand that nothing was farther from my intention; that I would leave her to the stings of her own conscience; but was firmly resolved to slit her husband's nose, whenever fortune should offer a convenient opportunity. Then going down stairs I met Lavement coming up, trembling, with the pestle in his hand, and Gawky behind, armed with his sword, pushing him forward, I demanded a parley, and having assured them of my pacific disposition; Gawky exclaimed, „Ah! villain! you have killed my dear wife.“ — And the apothecary cried, „Ah coquin! vere is my shild?“ — „The Lady (said I) is above stairs, unhurt by me, and will a few months hence (I believe) reward your concern.“ — Here she called to them, and desired they would let the wretch go, and trouble themselves no farther about him. — To which request her father consented, observing nevertheless, that my conversation was fort mysterieuse. Finding it impossible to vindicate my innocence, I left the house immediately and went to the

schoolmaster, with an intention of clearing myself to him, and asking his advice with regard to my future conduct; but, to my inexpressible vexation, was told he was gone to the country, where he would stay two or three days, — I returned with a design of consulting some acquaintance I had acquired in my master's neighbourhood; but my story had taken air, through the officiousness of the servants, and not one of my friends would vouchsafe me a hearing. — Thus I found myself, by the iniquity of mankind, in a much more deplorable condition than ever: for though I had been formerly as poor, my reputation was without blemish, and my health unimpaired till now: — but at present my good name was lost, my money gone, my friends were alienated, my body was infected by a distemper contracted in the course of an amour; and my faithful Strap, who alone could yield me pity and assistance, absent I knew not where.

The first resolutions I could take in this melancholy conjecture, was to remove my cloaths to the house of the person with whom I had formerly lodged: where I remained two days, in hopes of getting another place, by the interest of Mr. Concordance, to whom I made no doubt of

being able to vindicate my character; but in this supposition I reckoned without my host, for Lavement took care to be before hand with me, and when I attempted to explain the whole affair to the schoolmaster, I found him so prepossessed against me, that he would scarce hear me to an end; but when I had finished my justification, shook his head, and beginning with his usual exclamation, „O Christ!“ said, „That won't go down with me. — I am very sorry I should have the misfortune of being concerned in the affair, but however shall be more cautious for the future. — I will trust no man from henceforward — no, not my father who begat me — nor the brother who lay with me in my mother's womb — Should Daniel rise from the dead, I should think him an impostor; and were the genius of truth to appear, would question its veracity.“ — I told him, that one day it was possible he might be convinced of the injury I had suffered, and repent of his premature determination, — To which remark he answered, the proof of my innocence would make his bowels vibrate with joy; „but till that shall happen (continued he) I must beg to have no manner of connexion with you — my reputation is at stake — O my good God!

I shall be looked upon as your accomplice and abettor — people will say Jonathan Wild was but a type of me — boys will hoot at me as I pass along; and the cinder-wenches belch forth reproaches wafted in a gale impregnated with gin — I shall be notorious, the very butt of slander, and cloak to infamy," — I was not in an humour to relish the climax of expressions upon which this gentleman valued himself in all his discourses; but without any ceremony took my leave, cursed with every sentiment of horror, which my situation could suggest. I considered, however, in the intervals of my despondence, that I must in some shape suit my expences to my calamitous circumstances; and with that view hired an apartment in a garret near St. Giles's, at the rate of nine-pence *per* week: — In this place I resolved to perform my own cure, having first pawned three shirts to purchase medicines and support for the occasion.

One day when I sat in this solitary retreat, musing upon the unhappiness of my fate, I was alarmed by a groan that issued from a chamber contiguous to mine, into which I immediately ran, and found a woman stretched on a miserable truckle bed, without any visible signs of life. Having applied a

smelling bottle to her nose, the blood began to revisit her cheeks, and she opened her eyes; but, good heaven! what were the emotions of my soul, when I discovered her to be the same individual lady who had triumphed over my heart, and to whose fate I had almost been inseparably joined! Her deplorable situation filled my breast with compassion, and every tender idea reviving my indignation, I flew into her embrace. She knew me immediately; and straining me gently in her arms, shed a torrent of tears, which I could not help increasing: at length, casting a languishing look at me, she pronounced with a feeble voice, „Dear Mr. Random, I do not deserve this concern at your hands. — I am a vile creature, who had a base design upon your person — suffer me to expiate that and all my other crimes by a miserable death, which will not fail to overtake me in a few hours.“ — I encouraged her as much as I could, told her I forgave all her intentions with regard to me; and that although my circumstances were extremely low, I would share my last farthing with her. In the mean time, begged to know the immediate cause of that fit from which she had just recovered, and said I would endeavour by my skill to prevent any more

such attacks. — She seemed very much affected with this expression, took my hand and pressed it to her lips, saying, „You are too generous, I wish I could live to express my gratitude — but alas! I perish for want.“ — Then shutting her eyes, she relapsed into another swoon. — Such extremity of distress must have waked the most obdurate heart to sympathy and compassion: What effect then must it have had on mine, that was naturally prone to every tender passion! I ran down stairs and sent my landlady to a chymist's shop for some cinnamon water, which I, returning to this unfortunate creature's chamber, used all the means in my power to bring her to herself: This aim with much difficulty I accomplished, and made her drink a glass of the cordial to recruit her spirits; then I prepared a little mulled red wine and a toast, which having taken, she found herself thoroughly revived, and informed me, that she had not tasted food for eight and forty hours before. — As I was impatient to know the occasion and nature of her calamity, she gave me to understand that she was a woman of the town by profession; — that in the course of her adventures, she found herself dangerously infected with a distemper to which all of her

class are particularly subject; — that her malady gaining ground every day, she became loathsome to herself, and offensive to others, when she resolved to retire to some obscure corner, where she might be cured with as little noise and expence as possible: that she had accordingly chosen this place of retreat, and put herself into the hands of an advertising doctor, who, having fleeced her of all the money she had, or could procure, left her three days ago in a worse condition than that in which he found her; — that except the cloaths on her back, she had pawned or sold every thing that belonged to her, to satisfy that rapacious quack, and quiet the clamour of her landlady, who still persisted in her threats to turn her out into the street. — After having moralized upon these particulars, I proposed that she should lodge in the same room with me, an expedient that would save some money; and assured her I would undertake her cure as well as my own, during which she should partake of all the conveniences that I could afford to myself. — She embraced my offer with unfeigned acknowledgment; and I began to put it in practice immediately. — I found in her not only an agreeable companion, whose conversation greatly alleviated my

chagrin, but also a careful nurse, who served me with the utmost fidelity, and affection. One day while I testified my surprise, that a woman of her beauty, good sense, and education, (for she had a large portion of each) could be reduced to such an infamous and miserable way of life as that of a prostitute; she answered with a sigh, „These very [advantages were the cause of my undoing,“ — This remarkable reply inflamed my curiosity to such a degree that I begged she would favour me with the particulars of her story, and she complied in these words.

CHAP. XXII.

The History of Miss WILLIAMS.

My father was an eminent merchant in the city, who having, in the course of trade, suffered very considerable losses, retired in his old age with his wife to a small estate in the country, which he had purchased with the remains of his fortune. At that time I, being but eight years of age, was left in town for the convenience of education, boarded with an aunt, who was a rigid presbyterian, and who confined me so closely to what she called the duties of religion, that in time I

grew weary of her doctrines, and by degrees conceived an aversion for the good books she daily recommended to my perusal. As I increased in age, and appeared with a person not disagreeable, I contracted a good deal of acquaintance, among my own sex, one of whom, after having lamented the restraint I was under, from the narrowness of my aunt's sentiments, told me I must now throw off the prejudices of opinion imbibed under her influence and example, and learn to think for myself; for which purpose she advised me to read Shaftesbury, Tindal, Hobbes, and all the books that are remarkable for their deviation from the old way of thinking, and by comparing one with another, I should soon be able to form a system of my own. I followed her advice; and whether it was owing to my prepossession against what I had formerly read, or the clearness of argument in these my new instructors, I know not, but I studied them with pleasure, and in a short time became a professed free-thinker. Proud of my new improvement, I argued in all companies, and that with such success, that I soon acquired the reputation of a philosopher, and few people durst undertake me in a dispute. — I grew vain upon my good fortune, and at length pretend-

ed to make my aunt a proselyte to my opinion; but she no sooner perceived my drift, than taking the alarm, she wrote to my father an account of my heresy, and conjured him, as he tendered the good of my soul, to remove me immediately from the dangerous place where I had contracted such sinful principles. Accordingly my father ordered me into the country, where I arrived in the fifteenth year of my age, and by his command, gave him a detail of all the articles of my faith, which he did not find so unreasonable as they had been represented. — Finding myself suddenly deprived of the company and pleasures of the town, I grew melancholy, and it was some time before I could relish my situation. — But solitude became everyday more and more familiar to me, and I consoled myself in my retreat with the enjoyment of a good library, at such times as were not employed in the management of the family (for my mother had been dead three years) in visiting, or some other party of rural diversion. — Having more imagination than judgment, I addicted myself too much to poetry and romance; and, in short, was looked upon as a very extraordinary person by every body in the country where I resided. — I

had one evening strayed, with a book in my hand, into a wood that bordered on the high road, at a little distance from my father's house; when a certain drunken squire riding by, perceived me, and crying, „Z——ds! there's a charming creature! alighted in a moment, caught me in his arms, and treated me so rudely, that I shrieked as loud as I could, and in the mean time opposed his violence with all the strength that rage and resentment could inspire. — During this struggle, another horseman came up, who seeing a lady so unworthily used, dismounted, and flew to my assistance. — My ravisher, mad with disappointment, or provoked with the reproaches of the other gentleman, quitted me, and running to his horse, drew a pistol from the saddle, and fired at my protector, who happily receiving no damage, went up, and with the butt end of his whip, laid him prostrate on the ground, before he could use the other, which his antagonist immediately seized, and clapping to the squire's breast, threatened to put him to death for his cowardice and treachery. In this dilemma I interposed, and begged his life, which was granted to my request, after he had asked pardon, and swore his intention was only to obtain a kiss. — However my defender

thought proper to unload the other pistol, and throw away the flints, before he gave him his liberty. — This courteous stranger conducted me home, where my father having learned the signal service he had done me, loaded him with caresses, and insisted on his lodging that night at our house. — If the obligation he had conferred upon me justly inspired me with sentiments of gratitude, his appearance and conversation seemed to entitle him to somewhat more. — He was about the age of two and twenty, among the tallest of the middle size; had chesnut-coloured hair, which he wore tied up in a ribband; a high polished forehead, a nose inclining to the aqueline, lively blue eyes, red pouting lips, teeth as white as snow, and a certain openness of countenance — but what need I describe any more particulars of his person? I hope you will do me the justice to believe I do not flatter, when I say he was the exact resemblance of you; and if I had not been well acquainted with his family and pedigree, I should have made no scruple of concluding that you was his brother. — He spoke little, and seemed to have no reserve, for what he said was ingenious, sensible, and uncommon. — In short, (said she, bursting into tears) he was formed for

the ruin of our sex. His behaviour was modest and respectful; but his looks were so significant, that I could easily observe, he secretly blessed the occasion that introduced him to my acquaintance. — We learned from his discourse that he was the eldest son of a wealthy gentleman in the neighbourhood, to whose name we were no strangers; that he had been to visit an acquaintance in the country, from whose house he was returning home, when my shrieks brought him to my rescue. — All night long my imagination formed a thousand ridiculous expectations. There was so much of knight-errantry in this gentleman's coming to the relief of a damsel in distress, with whom he immediately became enamoured, that all I had read of love and chivalry recurred to my fancy, and I looked upon myself as a princess in some region of romance, who, being delivered from the power of a brutal giant or satyr by a generous Oroondates, was bound in gratitude, as well as led by inclination, to yield up my affections to him without reserve. I vain did I endeavour to chastise these foolish conceits by reflections more reasonable and severe. The amusing images took full possession of my mind, and my dreams represented my hero sighing at my feet, in the language of a

despairing lover. — Next morning after breakfast he took his leave, when my father begged the favour of further acquaintance with him; to which request he replied by a compliment to him, and a look to me, so full of eloquence and tenderness, that my whole soul received the soft impression — In a short time he repeated his visit; and as a recital of the particular steps he pursued to ruin me would be too tedious and impertinent, let it suffice to say, he made it his business to insinuate himself into my esteem, by convincing me of his own good sense, and at the same time flattering my understanding. This task he performed in the most artful manner, by seeming to contradict me often through misapprehension, that I might have an opportunity of clearing myself, the more to my own honour. Having thus secured my good opinion, he began to give me some tokens of a particular passion, founded on a veneration for the qualities of my mind, and as an accidental ornament, admired the beauties of my person; till at length, being fully persuaded of his conquest, he chose a proper season for the theme, and disclosed his love, in terms so ardent and sincere, that it was impossible for me to disguise the sentiments of my heart, and he

received my approbation with the most lively transport. After this mutual declaration we contrived to meet more frequently, in private interviews, where we enjoyed the conversation of one another, in all the elevation of fancy and impatience of hope that reciprocal adoration can inspire. — He professed his honourable intentions, of which I made no question, lamented the avaricious disposition of his father, who had destined him for the arms of another, and vowed eternal fidelity, with such an appearance of candour and devotion, that I became a dupe to his deceit, and in an evil hour crowned his eager desire with full possession. — Cursed be the day on which I gave away my innocence and peace for a momentary gratification, which has entailed upon me such misery and horror! cursed be my beauty that first attracted the attention of the seducer! cursed be my education, that by refining my sentiments, made my heart the more susceptible! cursed be my good sense that fixed me to one object, and taught me the preference I enjoyed was but my due! Had I been ugly, nobody would have tempted me; had I been ignorant, the charms of my person would not have atoned for the coarseness of my conversation; had I been giddy, my vanity would have

divided my inclinations, and my ideas would have been so diffused, that I should never have listened to the enchantments of one alone.

But to return to my unfortunate story; we gave a loose to guilty pleasure, which for some months banished every other concern. — At last, by degrees, his visits became less frequent, and his behaviour less warm: I perceived his coldness, my heart took the alarm, my tears reproached him, and I insisted upon the performance of his promise to espouse me, that, whatever should happen, my reputation might be safe. He seemed to acquiesce in my proposal, and left me on pretence of finding a proper clergyman to unite us in the bands of wedlock. — But alas! the inconstant had no intention to return: I waited a whole week with the utmost impatience, sometimes doubting his honour, at other times inventing excuses for him, and condemning myself for harbouring the least suspicion of his faith. — At length, I understood from a gentleman who dined at our house, that this perfidious wretch was on the point of setting out for London with his bride, to buy clothes for their approaching nuptials. — This information distracted me! the more so, as I found myself some months gone with child,

and reflected, that it would be impossible to conceal my disgrace, which would not only ruin the character I had acquired in the country, but also bring the grey hairs of an indulgent parent to the grave. Rage took possession of my soul; I denounced a thousand imprecations, and formed as many schemes of revenge against the traitor who had undone me. Then my resentment would subside to silent sorrow: I recalled the tranquillity I had lost, wept over my infatuation, and sometimes a ray of hope would intervene, and for a moment cheer my drooping heart; I would revolve all the favourable circumstances of his character, repeat the vows he made, ascribe his absence to the vigilance of a suspicious father, who compelled him to a match his soul abhorred, and comfort myself with the expectation of seeing him before the thing should be brought to any terms of agreement. But how vain was my imagination! The villain left me without remorse, and in a few days the news of his marriage was spread all over the country. — My horror was then inconceivable; and had not the desire of revenge diverted the resolution, I should infallibly have put an end to my miserable life. — My father observed the symptoms

of my despair; and though I have good reason to believe he guessed the cause, was at a great deal of pains to seem ignorant of my affliction, while he endeavoured with paternal fondness to alleviate my distress. I saw his concern, which increased my anguish, and raised my fury against the author of my calamity to an implacable degree. Having furnished myself with a little money, I made an elopement from this unhappy parent in the night-time, and about break of day arrived at a small town, from whence a stage coach set out for London, in which I embarked, and next day alighted in town; the spirit of revenge having supported me all the way against every other reflection. — My first care was to hire a lodging, in which I kept myself very retired, having assumed a feigned name, that my character and situation might be the better concealed. It was not long before I found out the house of my ravisher, whither I immediately repaired in a transport of rage, determined to act some desperate deed for the satisfaction of my despair, though the hurry of my spirits would not permit me to concert or resolve upon a particular plan. When I demanded admission to Lothario (so let me call him) I was desired to send up my name

and business; but this I refused, telling the porter I had business for his master's private ear: Upon which I was conducted into a parlour until he should be informed of my request. — There I remained about a quarter of an hour, when a servant entered, and told me his master was engaged with company, and begged to be excused at that time. My temper could hold out no longer: I pulled a poniard from my bosom, where I had concealed it, and rushing out, flew up stairs like a fury, exclaiming, „Where is this perfidious villain! could I once plunge this dagger into his false heart, I should then die satisfied.“ The noise I made alarmed not only the servants, but the company also, who hearing my threats, came forward to the staircase to see what was the matter. I was seized, disarmed, and with-held by two footmen; and in this situation felt the most exquisite torture in beholding my undoer approach with his young wife. I could not endure the sight, was deprived of my senses, and fell into a severe fit, during which I know not how I was treated; but when I recovered the use of reflection, found myself on a bed in a paltry apartment, where I was attended by an old woman, who asked a thousand impertinent questions relating to

my condition: and informed me that my behaviour had thrown the whole family into confusion; that Lothario affirmed I was mad, and proposed to have me sent to Bedlam; but my lady persuaded herself there was more in my conduct than he cared should be known, and had taken to her bed on bare suspicion, having first ordered that I should be narrowly looked to. I heard all she said without making any other reply, than desiring she would do me the favour to call a chair; but this (she told me) could not be done without her master's consent, which, however, was easily procured, and I was conveyed to my own lodgings in a state of mind that baffles all description. The agitation of my thoughts produced a fever, which brought on a miscarriage; and I believe it is well for my conscience that heaven thus disposed of my burden; for, let me own to you with penitence and horror, if I had brought a living child into the world, my frenzy would have prompted me to sacrifice the little innocent to my resentment of the father's infidelity.

After this event, my rage abated, and my hate became more deliberate and calm: when one day, my landlady informed me that there was a gentleman below who

desired to see me, he having something of consequence to impart, which he was sure would contribute to my peace of mind. I was exceedingly alarmed at this declaration, which I attempted to interpret a thousand ways; and before I came to any determination he entered my room, with an apology for intruding upon me against my knowledge or consent. I surveyed him some time, and not being able to recollect his face, demanded with a faltering accent, what his business was with me? Upon which, he desired I would give him a particular audience, and he did not doubt of communicating something that would conduce to my satisfaction and repose. As I thought myself sufficiently guarded against any violence, I granted his request, and bid the woman withdraw. The stranger then advancing, gave me to understand that he was well acquainted with the particulars of my story, having been informed of them from Lothario's own mouth — that from the time he knew my misfortunes, he had entertained a detestation for the author of them; which had of late been increased, and inflamed to a desire of revenge, by a piece of dishonourable conduct towards him — that hearing of my melancholy situation, he had come

with an intention of offering his assistance and comfort, and was ready to espouse my quarrel, and forthwith take vengeance on my seducer, provided I would grant him one consideration, which (he hoped) I should see no reason to refuse. Had all the artifice of hell been employed in composing a persuasive, it could not have had a more instantaneous or favourable effect than this discourse had upon me. I was transported with a delirium of gloomy joy; I hugged my companion in my arms, and vowed that if he would make good his promise, my soul and body should be at his disposal. — The contract was made; he devoted himself to my revenge, undertook to murder Lothario that very night; and to bring me an account of his death before morning. Accordingly, about two of the clock, he was introduced to my chamber, and assured me, my perfidious lover was no more; that although he was not entitled to such an honourable proceeding, he had fairly challenged him to the field, where he upbraided him with his treachery towards me, for whom (he told me) his sword was drawn, and after a few passes left him weltering in his blood. — I was so savaged by my wrongs, that I delighted in the recital of this adventure, made him

repeat the particulars, feasted my eyes with the blood that remained on his clothes and sword, and yielded up my body as a recompence for the service he had done me. My imagination was so engrossed with these ideas, that in my sleep I dreamed Lothario appeared before me, pale, mangled, and bloody, blamed my rashness, protested his innocence, and pleaded his own cause so pathetically, that I was convinced of his fidelity, and waked in a fit of horror and remorse. — My bed fellow endeavoured to soothe, console, and persuade me that I had but barely done justice to myself. — I dropped asleep again, and the same apparition returned to my fancy. — In short, I passed the night in great misery, and looked upon my avenger with such abhorrence, that in the morning, perceiving my aversion, he insinuated there was still a possibility of Lothario's recovery; it was true, he left him wounded on the ground, but not quite dead; and perhaps his hurts might not be mortal. — At these words I started up, bade him fly for intelligence, and if he could not bring me tidings of Lothario's safety, at least consult his own; and never return, for I was resolved to surrender myself to justice, and declare all that I knew of the affair, that, if possible, I might expiate my own guilt, by incurring the

rigours of a sincere repentance and ignominious death. — He very coolly represented the unreasonableness of my prejudice against him, who had done nothing but what his love of me inspired, and honour justified; — that now he had, at the risk of his life, been subservient to my revenge, I was about to discard him, as an infamous agent, occasionally necessary; and that even if he should be so lucky as to bring news of Lothario's safety, it was probable my former resentment might revive, and I would upbraid him with having failed in his undertaking. — I assured him, that on the contrary, he should be dearer to me than ever, as I then should be convinced he acted more on the principles of a man of honour, than on those of a mercenary assassin, and scorned to take away the life of an adversary (how inveterate soever) which fortune had put in his power, — „Well then, Madam, (said he) whatever may have happened, I shall find it no difficult matter to acquit myself in point of honour,“ — And took his leave, in order to enquire into the consequences of his duel. — I was now more sensible than ever of the degrees of guilt and misery: all the affliction I had suffered hitherto was owing to my own credulity and weakness, and my conscience could not accuse me of

venal crimes; but now that I looked upon myself as a murderer, it is impossible to express the terrors of my imagination, which was incessantly haunted by the image of the deceased, and my bosom stung with the most exquisite agonies, of which I saw no end. — At length Horatio, (for so I shall call my keeper) returned, and telling me I had nothing to fear, delivered into my hands a billet, containing these words;

„MADAM,

„As I understand it is of consequence to your peace, I take this liberty to inform you, the wounds received from Horatio are not mortal. This satisfaction my humanity could not deny, even to a person who had endeavoured to disturb the repose, as well as destroy the life of

LOTHARIO.“

Being well acquainted with this hand, I had no reason to suspect an imposition in this letter, which I read over and over with a transport of joy, and caressed Horatio so much, that he appeared the happiest man alive. Thus was I won from despair by the menaces of a greater misfortune than that which depressed me. — Grievs are like usurpers; the most powerful deposes all the rest. — But my raptures were not lasting — that very letter which in a manner re-established

my tranquility, in a little time banished my peace. — His unjust reproaches, while they waked my resentment, recalled my former happiness, and filled my soul with rage and sorrow. — Horatio perceiving the situation of my mind, endeavoured to divert my chagrin, by treating me with all the amusements and entertainments of the town. I was gratified with every indulgence I could desire; introduced into the company of other kept mistresses, by whom an uncommon deference was paid to me; and I began to loose all remembrance of my former condition, when an accident brought it back to my view, with all its interesting circumstances. — Diverting myself one day with some newspapers, which I had not before perused, the following advertisement attracted my attention:

„Whereas a young gentlewoman disappeared from her father's house, in the county of —, about the end of September, on account (as is supposed) of some uneasiness of mind, and has not been as yet heard of: Whoever will give any information about her to Mr. —, of Gray's-inn, shall be handsomely rewarded; or if she will return to the arms of her disconsolate parent, she will be received with the utmost tenderness, whatever reason she may have to think otherwise, and

may be the means of prolonging the life of a father, already weighed down almost to the grave with age and sorrow."

This pathetic remonstrance had such an effect on me, that I was fully resolved to return like the prodigal son, and implore the forgiveness of him who gave me life; but alas! upon inquiry, I found he had paid his debt to nature, a month before, lamenting my absence to his last hour, having left his fortune to a stranger, as a mark of his resentment of my unkind and undutiful behaviour. — Penetrated with remorse on this occasion, I sunk into the most profound melancholy, and considered myself as the immediate cause of his death. — I lost all relish for company, and indeed most of my acquaintance no sooner perceived my change of temper than they abandoned me. Horatio, disgusted at my insensibility, or (which is more probable) cloyed with possession, became colder and colder every day, till at last he left me altogether, without making any apology for his conduct, or securing me against the miseries of want, as a man of honour ought to have done, considering the share he had in my ruin: for I afterwards learned that the quarrel between Lothario and him, was a story trumped up to rid the one of my importunities, and give the other

the enjoyment of my person, which, it seems, he lusted after, upon seeing me at the house of my seducer. — Reduced to this extremity, I cursed my own simplicity, uttered horrid imprecations against the treachery of Horatio; and as I became every day more and more familiarized to the loss of innocence, resolved to be revenged on the sex in general, by practising their own arts upon themselves. — Nor was an opportunity long wanting; an old gentlewoman, under pretence of sympathizing, visited me, and after having condoled me on my misfortunes, and professed a disinterested friendship, began to display the art of her occupation, in encomiums on my beauty, and invectives against the wretch who had forsaken me; insinuating withal, that it would be my own fault if I did not still make my fortune by the extraordinary qualifications with which nature had endowed me. — I soon understood her drift, and gave her such encouragement to explain herself, that we came to an agreement immediately, to divide the profits of my prostitution, accruing from such gallants as she should introduce to my acquaintance. The first stroke of my dissimulation was upon a certain j—ge, to whom I was recommended by this matron, as an innocent creature just arrived from the country.

He was so transported with my appearance and feigned simplicity, that he paid a hundred guineas for the possession of me for one night only, during which I behaved in such a manner, as to make him perfectly well pleased with his purchase.

CHAP. XVIII.

She is interrupted by a Bailiff, who arrests and carries her to the Marshalsea — I accompany her — Bring Witnesses to prove she is not the Person named in the Writ — The Bailiff is fain to give her a Present and discharge her — We shift our Lodging — She resumes her Story, and ends it — My Reflexion thereupon — She makes me acquainted with the Progress of a common Woman of the Town — Resolves to quit that Way of Life.

Her story was here interrupted by a rap at the door, which I no sooner opened, than three or four terrible fellows rushed in, one of whom accosted my fellow lodger thus: — „Madam, your servant; you must do me the favour to come along with me — I have got a writ against you.“ — While the bailiff (for so he was) spoke thus, his followers

surrounded the prisoner, and began to handle her very roughly, — This treatment incensed me so much, that I snatched up the poker, and would certainly have used it in defence of the lady, without any regard to the strength and number of her adversaries, had she not begged me, with a composure of countenance, for which I could not account, to use no violence in her behalf, which could be of no service to her, but might be very detrimental to myself. — Then turning to the leader of this formidable troop, she desired to see the writ, and having perused it, said with a faltering voice, „I am not the person whose name is here mentioned; arrest me at your peril.“ — „Aye, Aye, Madam, (replied the catchpole) we shall prove your identity. — In the mean time, whither will you be pleased to be carried, to my house, or to jail.“ — „If I must be confined, (said she) I would rather be in your house than in a common jail.“ — „Well, well, (answered he) if you have money enough in your pocket, you shall be entertained like a princess. — But, when she acquainted him with her poverty, he swore he never gave credit, and ordered one of his myrmidons to call a coach, to carry her to the Marshalsea at once. — While they waited for the convenience, she took me aside,

and bade me be under no concern on her account, for she knew how to extricate herself from this difficulty very soon, and perhaps gain something by the occasion. — Although her discourse was a mystery to me, I was very well pleased with her assurance; and when the coach came to the door, offered to accompany her to prison, to which proposal, after much intreaty, she consented. — When we arrived at the gate of the Marshalsea, our conductor alighted, and having demanded entrance, presented the writ to the turnkey, who no sooner perceived the name of Elizabeth Cary, than he cried, „Ah ah! my old acquaintance Bett!“ I’m glad to see thee with all my heart.“ — So saying, he opened the coach door, and helped her to dismount; but when he observed her face, he started back, saying, „Z—nds! who have we got here!“ — The bailiff, alarmed at this interrogation, cried with some emotion, „Who the devil should it be but the prisoner, Elizabeth Cary?“ — The turnkey replied, „That Elizabeth Cary! — I’ll be damned if that’s Elizabeth Cary, more than my grandmother. — D—n my blood, I know Bett Cary as well as if I had made her.“ Here the lady thought fit to interpose, and tell the catchpole, if he had taken her word for it at first, he might have saved himself and

her a great deal of trouble. — „It may be so (answered he) but by G—d, I'll have further evidence that you are not the person, before you and I part.“ — „Yes, yes, (said she) you shall have further evidence to your cost.“ — Then we adjourned into the lodge, and called for a bottle of wine, where my companion wrote a direction to two of her acquaintance, and begged the favour of me to go to their lodgings, and request them to come to her immediately; I found them together, at a house in Brydgesstreet, Drury-lane; and as they were luckily unengaged, they set out with me in a hackney-coach, without hesitation, after I had related the circumstances of the affair, which flattered them with hopes of seeing a bailiff trounced; for there is an antipathy as natural between the whores and bailiffs, as that subsisting between mice and cats. — Accordingly, when they entered the lodge, they embraced the prisoner very affectionately, by the name of Nancy Williams, and asked how long she had been nabbed, and for what? — On hearing the particulars of her adventure repeated, they offered to swear, before a justice of peace, that she was not the person mentioned in the writ, whom, it seems, they all knew; but the bailiff, who was by this time

convinced of his mistake, told them he would not put them to that trouble. „Ladies (said he) there's no harm done — you shall give me leave to treat you with another bottle, and then we'll part friends.“ — This proposal was not at all relished by the sisterhood; and Miss Williams told him, „Sure he did not imagine her such a fool as to be satisfied with a paltry glass of sour wine.“ — Here the turnkey interrupted her, by affirming, with an oath, that the wine was as good as ever was tipped over tongue. — Well, (continued she) that may be — but was it the best of champagne, it is no recompence for the damage I have suffered, both in character and in health, by being wrongfully dragged to jail. At this rate no innocent person is safe, since an officer of justice, out of malice, private peak, or mistake, may injure and oppress the subject with impunity — but, thank Heaven, I live under the protection of laws that will not suffer such insults to pass unpunished, and I know very well how to procure redress.“ — Mr. Vulture, (for that was the bailiff's name) finding he had to deal with one that would not be imposed upon, began to look very sullen and perplexed, and leaning his forehead on his hand, entered into a deliberation with himself, which lasted

a few minutes, and then broke out in a volley of dreadful curses against the old b—ch our landlady, (as he called her) for having misinformed him. — After much wrangling and swearing, the matter was referred to the decision of the turnkey, who, calling for the other bottle, mulcted the bailiff in all the liquor that had been drank, coach hire, and a couple of guineas for the use of the plaintiff. — The money was immediately deposited: Miss Williams gratified the two evidences with one half, and putting the other in her pocket, drove home with me, leaving the catchpole grumbling over his loss, yet pleased in the main, for having so cheaply got clear of a business that might have cost him ten times the sum, and his place to boot. — This guinea was a very seasonable relief to us, who were reduced to great necessity, six of my shirts, and almost all my clothes, except those on my back, having been either pawned or sold for our maintenance before this happened. — As we resented the behaviour of our landlady, our first care was to provide ourselves with another lodging, whither we removed next day, with an intention to keep ourselves as retired as possible, until our cure should be completed. When we were fixed in our new habitation, I in-

treated her to finish the story of her life; which she pursued in this manner:

The success of our experiment on the j—ge encouraged us to practise the same deceit upon others, and my virginity was five times sold to good purpose: But this harvest lasted not long, my character taking air, and my directress deserting me for some new game. Then I took lodgings near Charing-crofs, at two guineas per week, and began to entertain company in a public manner. — but my income being too small to defray my expence, I was obliged to retrench, and enter into articles with the porters of certain taverns, who undertook to find employment enough for me, provided I would share my profits with them. — Accordingly I was, almost every night, engaged with company, among whom I was exposed to every mortification, danger, and abuse, that flow from drunkenness, brutality, and disease. — How miserable is the condition of a courtesan, whose business is to soothe, suffer, and obey the dictates of rage, insolence, and lust! — As my spirit was not sufficiently humbled to the will, nor by temper calculated for the conversation of my gallants, it was impossible for me to overcome an aversion I felt for my profession, which

manifested itself in a settled gloom on my countenance, and disgusted those sons of mirth and riot so much, that I was frequently used in a shoking manner and kicked down stairs with disgrace. — The messengers seeing me disagreeable to their benefactors and employers, seldom rroubled me with a call, and I began to find myself almost totally neglected. To contribute towards my support, I was fain to sell my watch, rings, trinkets, with the best part of my clothes; and I was one evening musing by myself, on the misery before me, when I received a message from a bagnio, whither I repaired in a chair, and was introduced to a gentleman dressed like an officer, with whom I supped in a sumptuous manner, and after drinking a hearty glafs of champaigne, went to bed. — In the morning, when I awoke, I found my gallant had got up, and drawing aside the curtain, could not perceive him in the room. This circumstance gave me some uneasiness, but as he might have retired on some necessary occasion, I waited a full hour for his return; and then in the greatest perplexity rose up, and rung the bell. When the waiter came to the door, he found it locked, and desired admittance, which I granted, after observing with great surprize, that the key remained on the inside,

as when he went to bed, — I no sooner inquired for the captain, than the fellow staring with a distracted look, cried, „How, Madam? is he not a-bed?“ And when he was satisfied as to that particular, ran into a closet adjoining to the chamber, the window of which he found open. — Through this the adventurer had got upon a wall, from whence he dropped down into a court, and escaped? leaving me to be answerable, not only for the reckoning, but also for a large silver tankard and posset-bowl, which he had carried off with him. — It is impossible to describe the consternation I was under, when I saw myself detained as a thief's accomplice; for I was looked upon in that light, and carried before a justice, who mistaking my confusion for a sign of guilt, committed me, after a short examination, to Bridewell, having advised me, as the only means to save my life, to turn evidence, and impeach my confederate. — I now concluded the vengeance of Heaven had overtaken me, and that I must soon finish my career by an ignominious death. — This reflection sunk so deep into my soul, that I was for some days deprived of my reason, and actually believed myself in hell, tormented by fiends. Indeed, there needs not a very extravagant imagination to form that idea; for of all the scenes on

earth, that of Bridewell comes nearest the notion I had always entertained of the infernal regions. — Here I saw nothing but rage, anguish, and impiety; and heard nothing but groans, curses, and blasphemy. — In the midst of his hellish crew, I was subjected to the tyranny of a barbarian, who imposed upon me tasks that I could not possibly perform, and then punished my incapacity with the utmost rigour and inhumanity. I was often whipt into a swoon, and lashed out of it, during which miserable intervals, I was robbed by my fellow-prisoners of every thing about me, even to my cap, shoes, and stockings; I was not only destitute of necessaries, but even of food, so that my wretchedness was extreme. Not one of my acquaintance, to whom I imparted my situation, would grant me the least succour or regard, on pretence of my being for theft; and my landlord refused to part with some of my own clothes, which I sent for because I was indebted to him for a week's lodging. — Overwhelmed with calamity, I grew desperate, and resolved to put an end to my grievances and life together: for this purpose I got up in the middle of the night, when I thought every body round me asleep, and fixing one end of my handkerchief to a large hook in the cieling, that supported the

scales on which the hemp is weighed, I stood upon a chair, and making a noose on the other end, put my neck into it, with an intention to hang myself; but before I could adjust the knot, I was surprised and prevented by two women who had been awake all the while, and suspected my design. — In the morning my attempt was published among the prisoners, and punished with thirty stripes, the pain of which, cooperating with my disappointment and disgrace, bereft me of my senses, and threw me into an ecstasy of madness, during which, I tore the flesh from my bones with my teeth, and dashed my head against the pavement. — So that they were obliged to set a watch over me, to restrain me from doing further mischief to myself and others. — This fit of frenzy continued three days, at the end of which I grew calm and sullen: but as the desire of making away with myself still remained, I came to a determination of starving myself to death, and with this view refused all sustenance. Whether it was owing to the want of opposition, or to the weakness of nature, I know not, but on the second day of my fast, I found my resolution considerably impaired, and the calls of hunger almost insupportable. — At this critical

conjunction, a lady was brought into prison, with whom I had contracted an acquaintance while I lived with Horatio; she was then on the same footing as I was, but afterwards quarrelling with her gallant, and not finding another to her mind, altered her scheme of life, and set up a coffee-house among the Hundreds of Drury, where she entertained gentlemen with claret, arrack, and the choice of half a dozen of damsels, who lived in her house. This serviceable matron having neglected to gratify a certain j—ce for the connivance she enjoyed, was indicted at the quarter session, in consequence of which her bevy was dispersed, and herself committed to Bridewell. — She had not been long there, before she learned my disaster, and coming up to me, after a compliment of condolence, inquired into the particulars of my fate: While we were engaged in discourse together, the master came and told me, that the fellow on whose account I had suffered was taken; that he had confessed the theft, and cleared me of any concern in the affair; for which reason, he, the master, had orders to discharge me, and that I was from that moment free. This piece of news soon banished all thoughts of death, and had such an instantaneous effect on my countenance, that Mrs. Coupler (the

lady then present) hoping to find her account in me, very generously offered to furnish me with what necessaries I wanted, and take me into her own house, as soon as she should compromise matters with the j—es. The conditions of her offer were, that I should pay three guineas weekly for my board, and a reasonable consideration besides, for the use of such clothes and ornaments as she should supply me with, to be deducted from the first profits of my embraces. — These were hard terms, but not to be rejected by one who was turned out helpless and naked into the wide world, without a friend to pity or assist her. — I therefore embraced her proposal, and she, being bailed in a few hours, took me home with her in a coach. As I was by this time conscious of having formerly disgusted my admirers by my reserved and haughty behaviour, I now endeavoured to conquer that disposition, and the sudden change of my fortune giving me a flow of spirits, I appeared in the most winning and gay manner I could assume. Having the advantage of a good voice and education, I exerted my talents to the uttermost, and soon became the favourite with all company. — This success alarmed the pride and jealousy of Mrs. Coupler, who could not bear the

thoughts of being eclipsed: She, therefore, made a merit of her envy, and whispered among the customers, that I was unsound. — There needed no more to ruin my reputation, and blast my prosperity; every body shunned me with marks of aversion and disdain, and in a very short time I was as solitary as ever. Want of gallants was attended with want of money to satisfy my malicious landlady, who, having purposely given me credit to the account of eleven pounds, took out a writ against me, and I was arrested in her own house. — Though the room was crowded with people, when the bailiff entered, not one of them had compassion enough to mollify my prosecutrix, far less to pay the debt: they even laughed at my tears, and one of them bade me be of good cheer, for I should not want admirers in Newgate. At that instant, a sea-lieutenant came in, and seeing my plight, began to enquire into the circumstances of my misfortune, when this wit advised him to keep clear of me, for I was a fire-ship. — „A fire-ship! (replied the sailor) more like a poor gally in distress, that has been boarded by such a fireship as you; if so be, as that is the case, she stands in more need of assistance. — Harkee, my girl, how far have you over-run the con-

stable?" — I told him that the debt amounted to eleven pounds, besides the expence of the writ — "An' that be all (said he) you shant go to the bilboes this bout." — And taking out his purse, paid the money, discharged the bailiff, and telling me I had got into the wrong port, advised me to seek out a more convenient harbour, where I could be savely hove down, for which purpose he made me a present of five guineas more. — I was so touched with this singular piece of generosity, that for some time I had not power to thank him. — However, as soon as I had recollected myself, I begged the favour of him to go with me to the next tavern, where I explained the nature of my disaster, and convinced him of the falsehood of what was reported to my prejudice so effectually, that he from that moment attached himself to me, and we lived in great harmony together, until he was obliged to go to sea, where he perished in a storm.

Having lost my benefactor, and almost consumed the remains of his bounty, I saw myself in danger of relapsing into my former necessity, and began to be very uneasy at the prospect of bailiffs and jails; — when one of the sisterhood, a little stale, advised me to take lodgings in a part of the town

where I was unknown, and pass for an heiress, by which artifice I might entrap somebody to be my husband, who would possibly be able to allow me an handsome maintenance, or at worst screen me from the dread and danger of a prison, by becoming liable for whatever debts I should contract. — I approved of this scheme, towards the execution of which my companion clubbed her wardrobe, and undertook to live with me in quality of my maid; with the proviso, that she should be reimbursed, and handsomely considered out of the profits of my success. — She was immediately detached to look out for a convenient place, and that very day hired a genteel apartment in Park-street, whither I moved in a coach loaded with her baggage and my own. — I made my first appearance in a blue riding habit trimmed with silver; and my maid acted her part so artfully, that, in a day or two my fame was spread all over the neighbourhood, and I was said to be a rich heiress just arrived from the country. — This report brought a swarm of gay young fellows about me; but I soon found them out to be all indigent adventurers like myself, who crowded to me like crows to carrion, with a view of preying upon my fortune. — I maintained,

however, the appearance of wealth, as long as possible, in hopes of gaining some admirer more for my purpose; and at length attracted the regard of one who would have satisfied my wishes; and managed matters so well, that a day was actually fixed for our nuptials: In the interim, he begged leave to introduce an intimate friend to me, which request, as I could not refuse, I had the extreme mortification and surprise to see next night, in that friend, my old keeper, Horatio, who no sooner beheld me than he changed colour; but had presence of mind to advance and salute me, bidding me (with a low voice) be under no apprehension, for he would not expose me. — In spite of this assurance, I could not recover myself so far, as to entertain them, but withdrew to my chamber, on pretence of a severe head ach, to the no small concern of my adorer, who took his leave in the tenderest manner, and went off with his friend.

Having imparted my situation to my companion, she found it high time for us to decamp, and that without any noise, because we were not only indebted to our landlady, but also to several tradesmen in the neighbourhood. — Our retreat (therefore) was concerted and executed in this manner: Having

packed up all our clothes and moveables in small parcels, she (on pretence of fetching cordials for me) carried them at several times to the house of an acquaintance, where she likewise procured a lodging; to which we retired in the middle of the night, when every other body in the house was asleep. I was now obliged to aim at lower game, and accordingly spread my nets among trades-people; but found them all too phlegmatic or cautious for my art and attractions; till at last I became acquainted with you, on whom I practised all my dexterity; not that I believed you had any fortune, or expectation of one, but that I might transfer the burthen of such debts as I had incurred or should contract, from myself to another; and at the same time avenge myself of your sex, by rendering miserable one, who bore such resemblance to the wretch who ruined me; — but Heaven preserved you from my snares, by the discovery you made, which was owing to the negligence of my maid in leaving the chamberdoor unlocked, when she went to buy sugar for breakfast. — The person in bed with me was a gentleman, whom I had allured the night before, as he walked homeward, pretty much elevated with liquor; for by this time my condition was so low, that I was forced to turn

out, in the twilight, to the streets, in hopes of prey. — When I found myself detected and forsaken by you, I was fain to move my lodgings, and dwell two pair of stairs higher than before: My companion being disappointed in her expectations, left me, to trade upon her own bottom, and I had no other resource, than to venture forth, like the owls, in the dark, to pick up a precarious and uncomfortable subsistence. I have often sauntered between Ludgate-hill and Charing-cross a whole winter night, exposed not only to the inclemency of the weather, but likewise to the rage of hunger and thirst, without being so happy as to meet with one cully; then creep up to my garret, in a deplorable, draggled condition, sneak to bed, and try to bury my appetite and sorrows in sleep. — When I lighted on some rake or tradesman, reeling home drunk, I frequently suffered the most brutal treatment, in spite of which I was obliged to affect gaiety and good humour, though my soul was stung with resentment and disdain, and my heart loaded with grief and affliction. — In the course of these nocturnal adventures, I was infected with the disease, that in a short time rendered me the object of my own abhorrence, and

drove me to the retreat, where your benevolence rescued me from the jaws of death.

So much candour and good sense appeared in this lady's narration, that I made no scruple of believing every syllable of what she said; and expressed my astonishment at the variety of miseries she had undergone, in so little time; for all her misfortunes had happened within the compass of two years. — I compared her situation with my own, and found it a thousand times more wretched; I had endured hardships, 'tis true; my whole life had been a series of such; and when I looked forward, the prospect was not much bettered, — but then they were become habitual to me, and consequently I could bear them with less difficulty. — If one scheme of life should not succeed, I could have recourse to another, and so to a third, veering about to a thousand different snifts, according to the emergencies of my fate, without forfeiting the dignity of my character, beyond a power of retrieving it, or subjecting myself wholly to the caprice and barbarity of the world. On the other hand, she had known and relished the sweets of prosperity, she had been brought up under the wings of an indulgent parent, in all the delicacies to which her sex and rank entitled

her; and without any extravagance of hope, entertained herself with the view of uninterrupted happiness through the whole scene of life. — How fatal then, how tormenting, how intolerable must her reverse of fortune be! a reverse, that not only robs her of these external comforts, and plunges her into all the miseries of want, but also murders her peace of mind, and entails upon her the curse of eternal infamy! — Of all professions I pronounced that of a courtesan the most deplorable; and her, of all courtezans, the most unhappy. — She allowed my observation to be just in the main, but at the same time affirmed, that notwithstanding the disgraces which had fallen to her share, she had not been so unlucky, in the condition of a prostitute, as many others of the same community. — „I have often seen, (said she) while I strolled about the streets at midnight, a number of naked wretches, reduced to rags and filth, huddled together like swine, in the corner of a dark alley; some of whom, but eighteen months before, I had known the favourites of the town, rolling in affluence, and glittering in all the pomp of equipage and dress.“ — And indeed the gradation is easily conceived: the most fashionable woman of the town is as liable to contagion, as one

in a much humbler sphere; she infects her admirers, her situation is public; she is avoided, neglected, unable to support her usual appearance, which however she strives to maintain as long as possible, her credit fails, she is obliged to retrench, and become a night-walker, her malady gains ground, she tampers with her constitution, and ruins it; her complexion fades, she grows nauseous to every body, finds herself reduced to a starving condition, is tempted to pick pockets, is detected, committed to Newgate, where she remains in a miserable condition, 'till she is discharged because the plaintiff will not appear to prosecute her. No body will afford her lodging, the symptoms of her distemper are grown outragoeus, she sues to be admitted into an hospital, where she is cured at the expence of her nose; she is turned out naked into the streets, depends upon the addresses of the lowest class, is fain to allay the rage of hunger and cold with gin, degenerates into a brutal insensibility, rots and dies upon a dunghill. — Miserable wretch that I am, perhaps the same horrors are decreed for me! — „No, (cried she, after some pause) I shall never live to such extremity of distress! my own hand shall open a way for my deliverance, before I arrive at that forlorn

period!" — Her condition filled me with sympathy and compassion; I revered her qualifications, looked upon her as unfortunate, not criminal, and attended her with such care and success, that in less than two months, her health, as well as my own, was perfectly re-established. — As we often conferred upon our mutual affairs, and interchanged advice, a thousand different projects were formed, which upon further canvassing appeared impracticable. — We would have gladly gone to service; but who would take us in without recommendation? At length an expedient occurred to her, of which she intended to lay hold; and this was, to procure, with the first money she should earn, the homely garb of a country wench, go to some village at a good distance from town, and come up in a waggon, as a fresh girl for service; by which means she might be provided for in a manner much more suitable to her inclination, than her present way of life,







Smollett, Tobias George,

The adventures of Roderic Random with the life of the author

Bd.: 1

Gotha (1805)

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